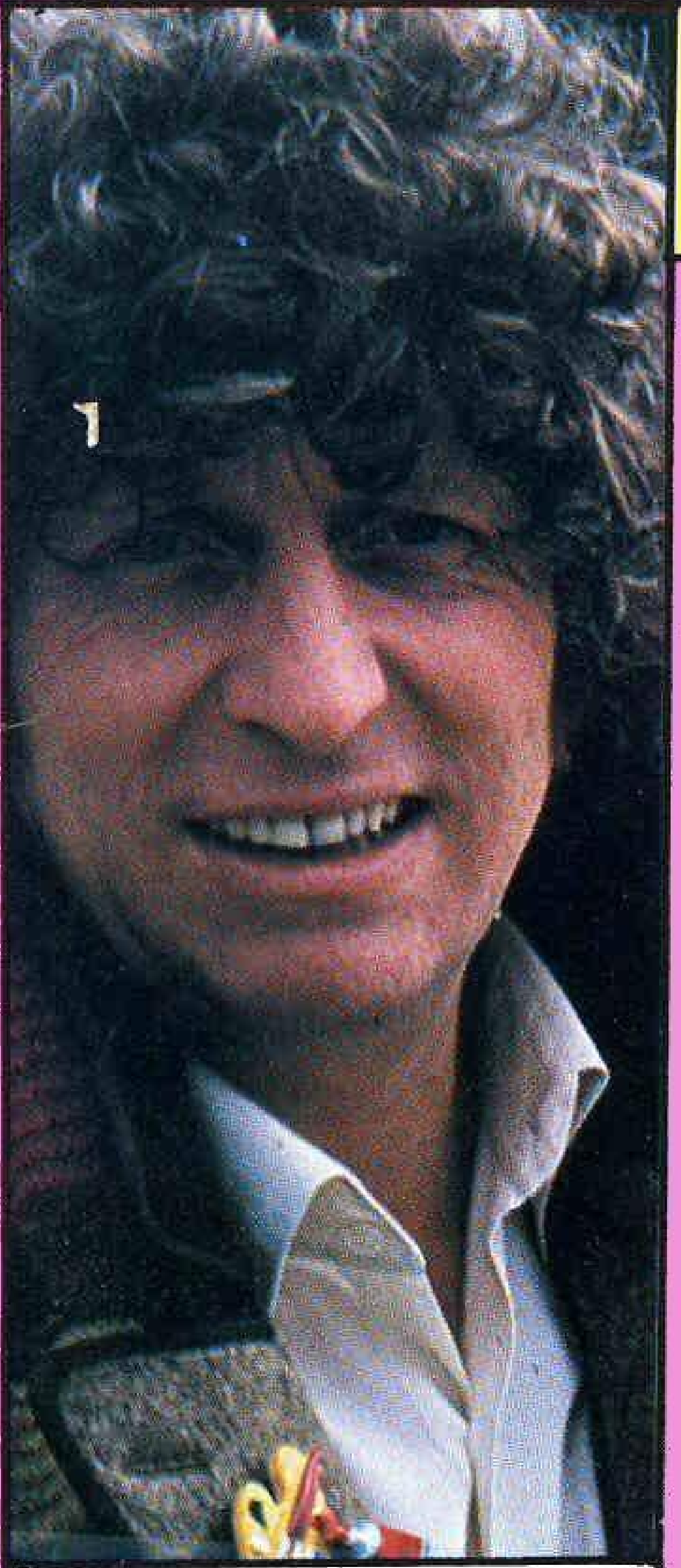

No.45
OCTOBER

**3 GREAT FEATURES! NEWS, COMIC STRIPS AND MORE!**

# DOCTOR WHO

A MARVEL MONTHLY 30p

**FROM THE DEPTHS OF SPACE COME ...THE AMBASSADORS OF DEATH!**

**THIS MONTH: A GREAT NEW DR. WHO COMIC STRIP BEGINS!**

**INSIDE: A NEW STAR PROFILE!**

Dr Who's third incarnation (Jon Pertwee) surrounded by four of his most deadly foes!

# DOCTOR WHO PIN-UP

*The Doctor (Jon Pertwee) with the Doctor's "other self" (Patrick Troughton) in a scene from the final episode of the 1973 adventure "The Three Doctors".*

Gothman Skan
No.45 OCTOBER

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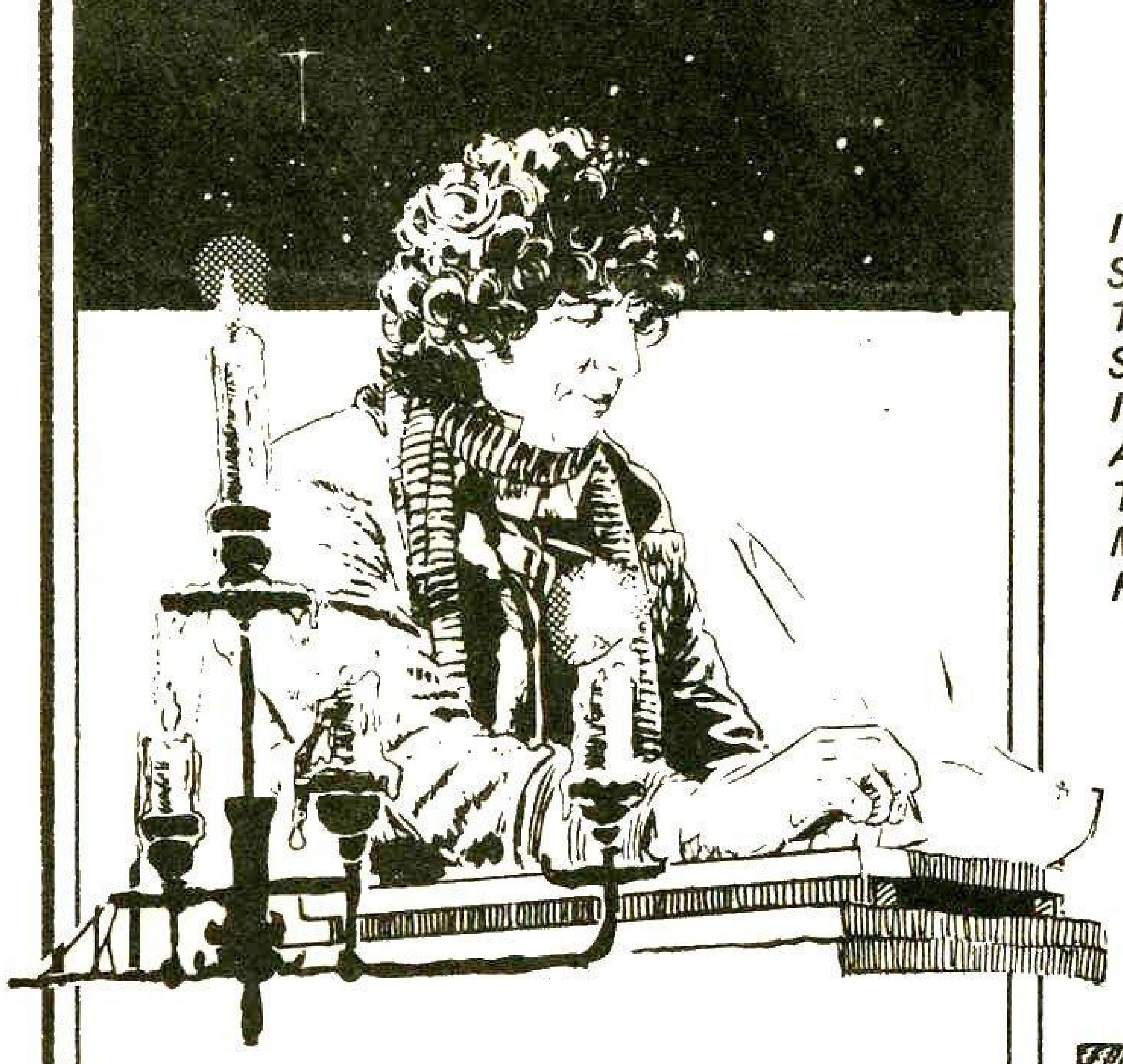

Journey back through time to meet this month's Star Profile, my third incarnation, a rather well dressed gentleman whose brave battle to save Earth from "The Ambassadors of Death" will be retold in a UNIT Special Report this issue!

It's non-stop comic action month with the last gripping instalment of my adventure in 16th century China, and while the ancient Chinese offer Sharon and myself endless difficulties, the crew of the Kill-Wagon continue their adventures under the dubious leadership of Abslom Daak.

Oh, I nearly forgot, have you been watching my great new TV series? If not and you've been unfortunate to miss the opening of "The Leisure Hive", we have a wonderful photo-feature that ought to see you through until the next episode!

Have fun,

*The Doctor*

## SPECIAL FEATURES

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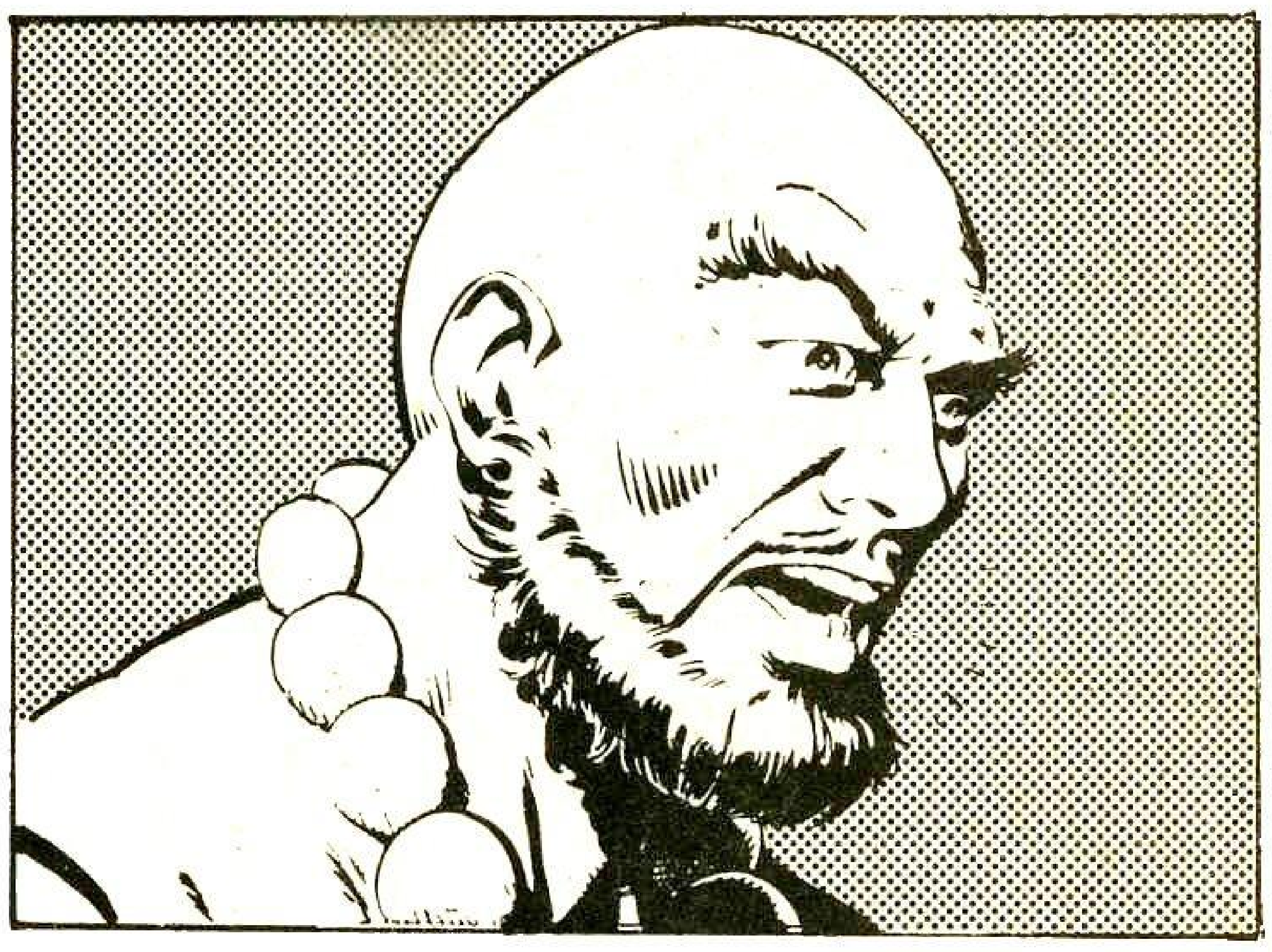
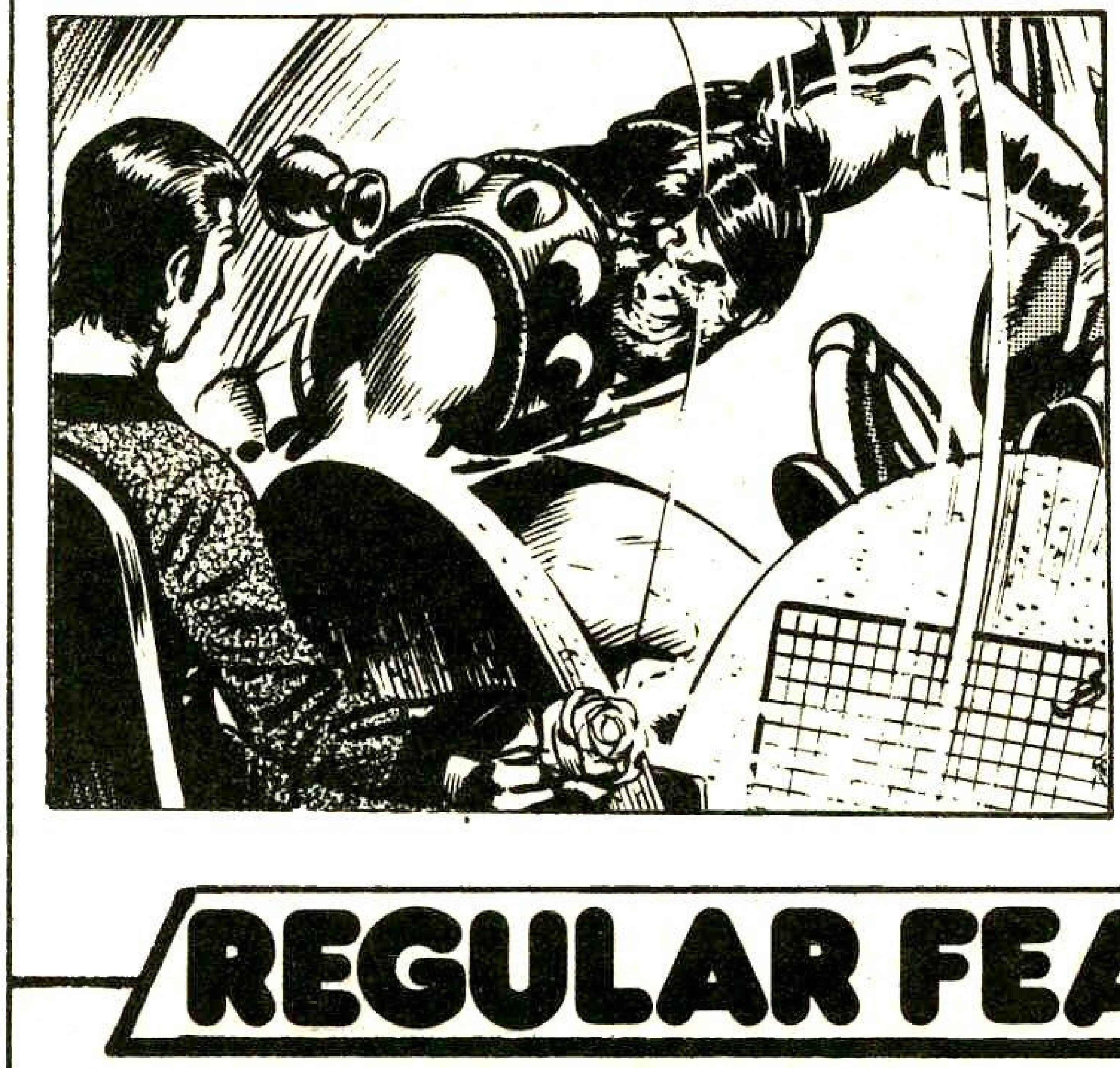
*IT ONLY TAKES ONE SIMPLE PHRASE TO TRIGGER OFF THE SONTARAN'S DEADLY INVASION PLAN . . . A PHRASE THAT WILL TURN THE SHAOLIN MONKS INTO RUTHLESS KILLERS!*



**STAR TIGERS 31**



*A STRANGE GAME IS IN PROGRESS ON THE DESOLATE PLANET OF DISPATER, A GAME OF PARALLEL REALITY WHERE THE JOKER IS PLAYED BY NONE OTHER THAN . . . ABSLOM DAAK!*

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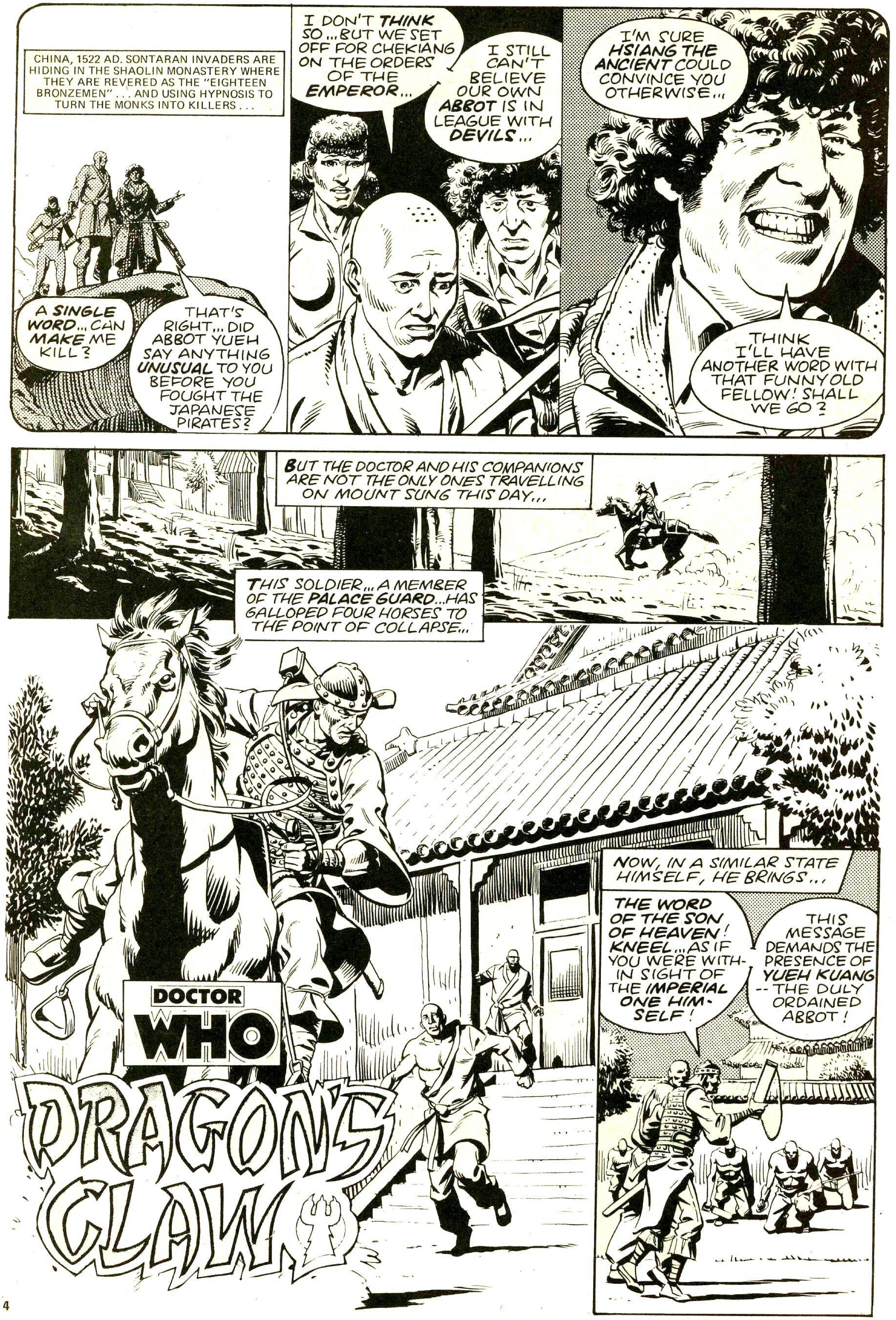
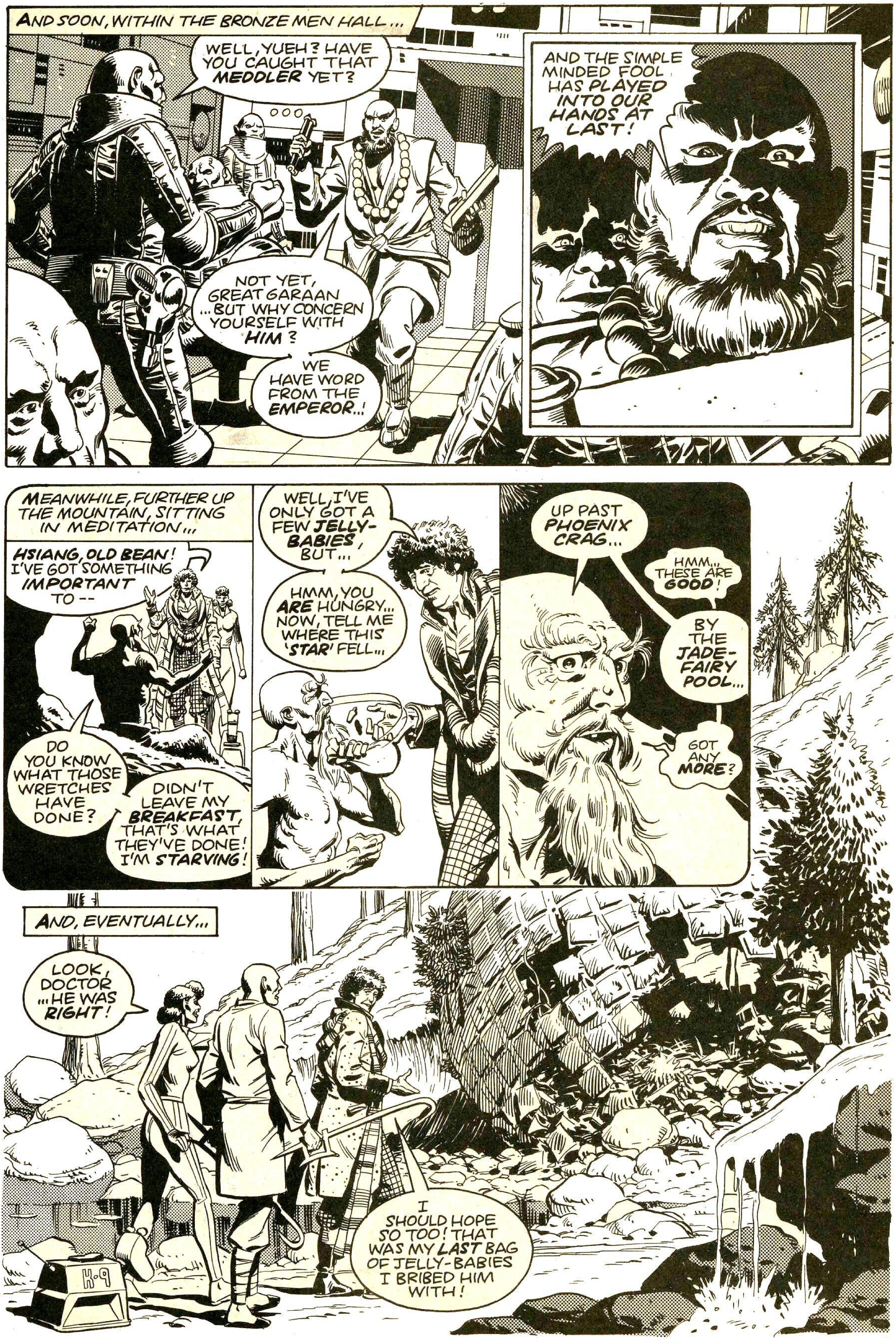
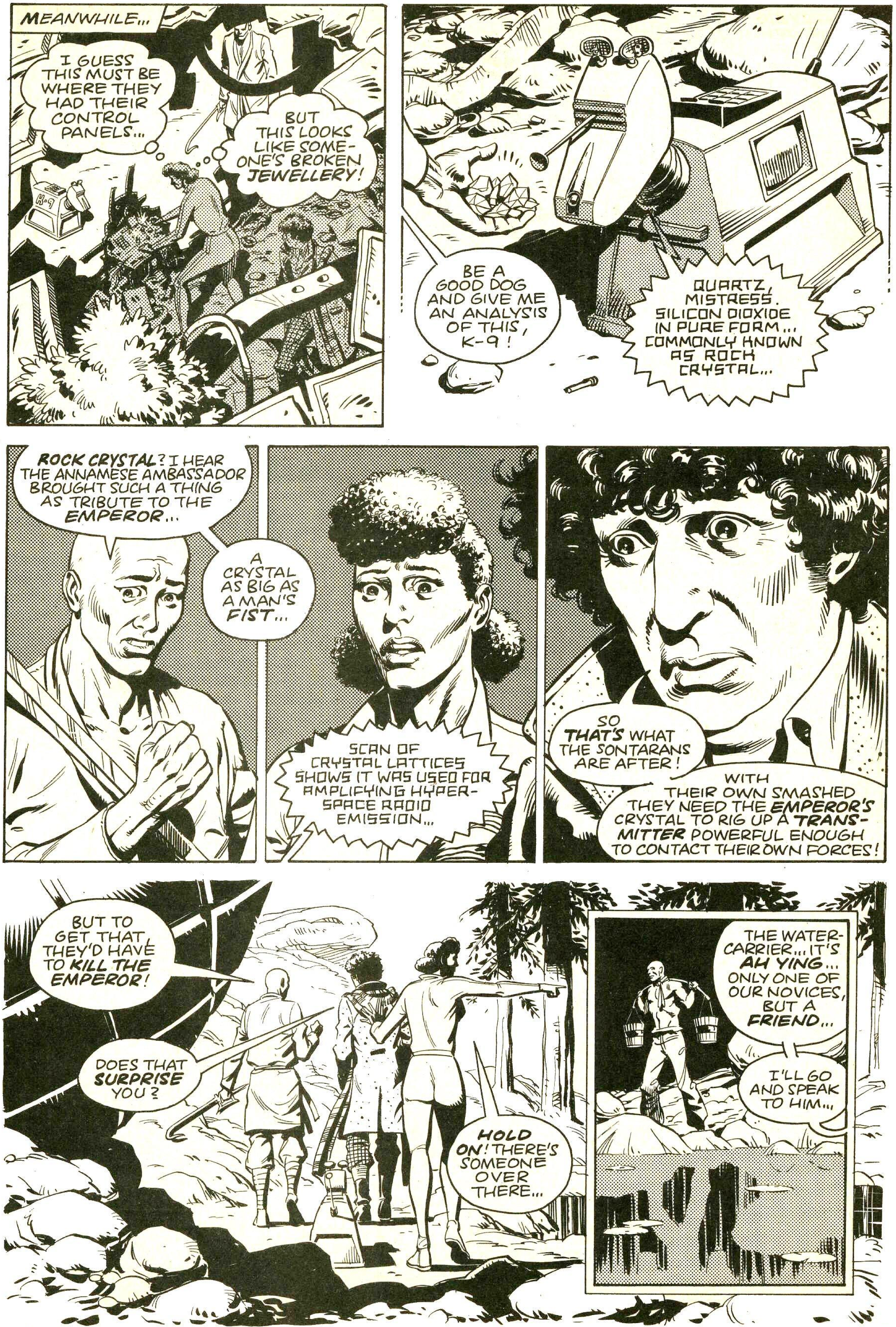
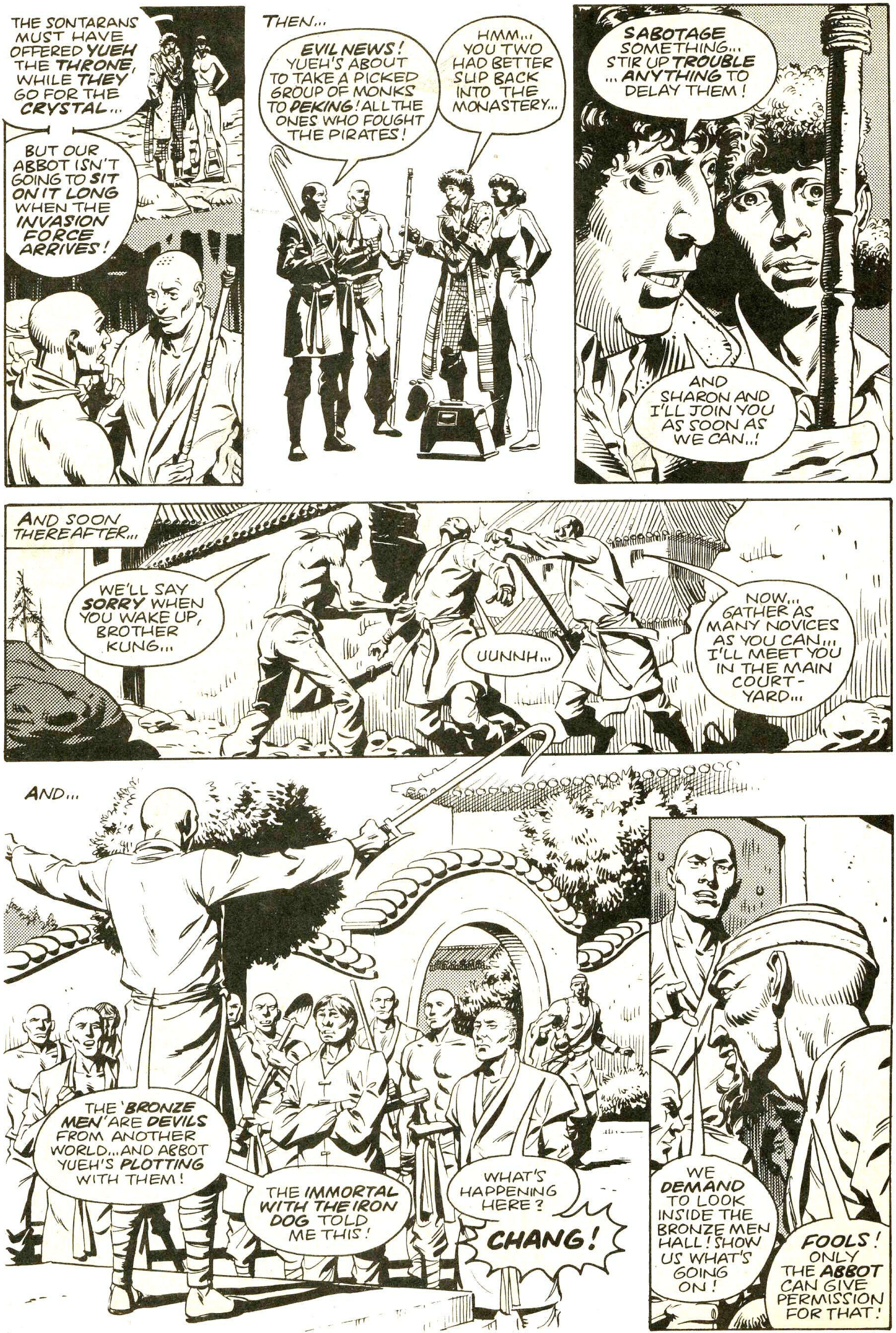
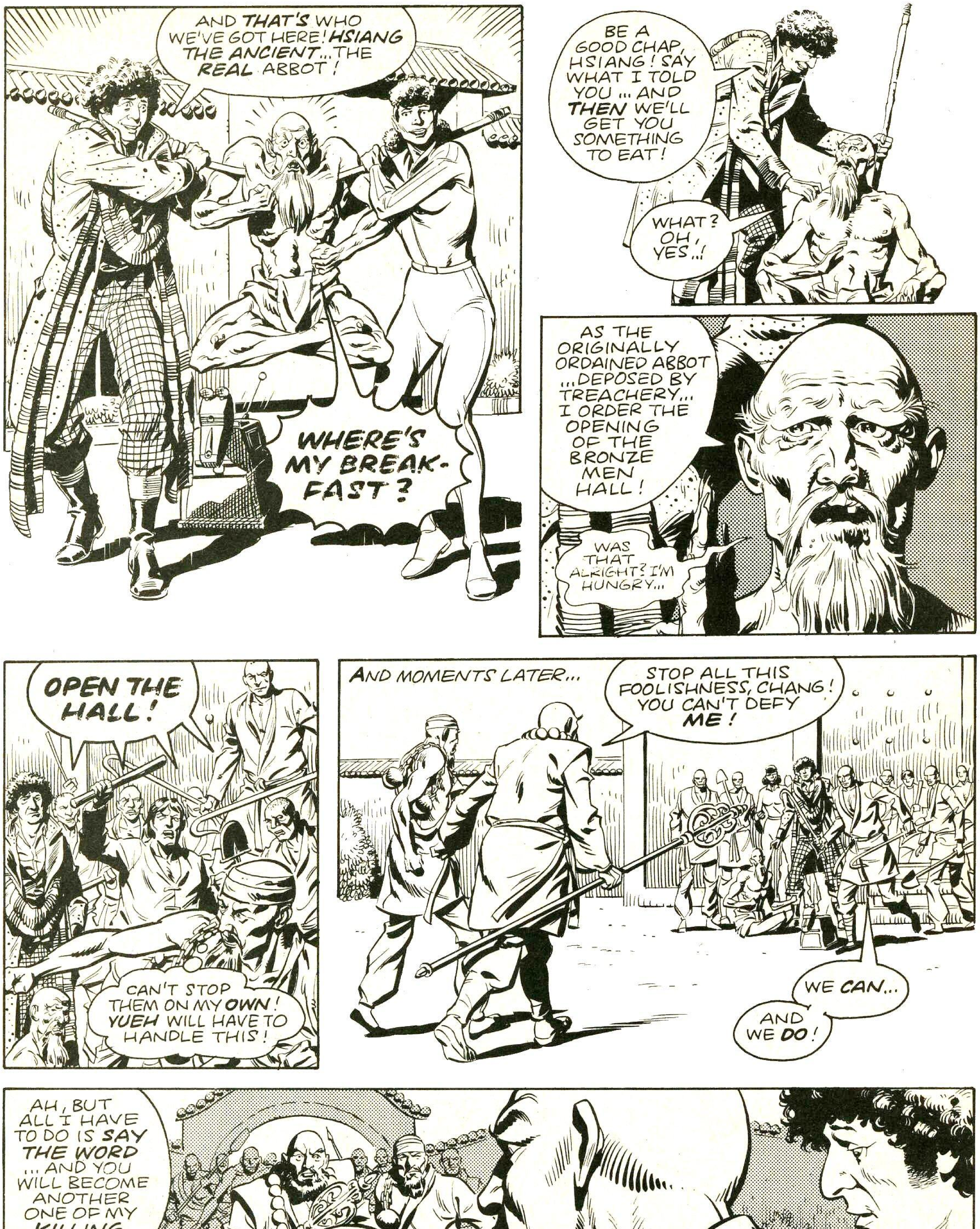

CHINA, 1522 AD. SONTARAN INVADERS ARE HIDING IN THE SHAOLIN MONASTERY WHERE THEY ARE REVERED AS THE "EIGHTEEN BRONZEMEN" . . . AND USING HYPNOSIS TO TURN THE MONKS INTO KILLERS . . .
A SINGLE WORD... CAN MAKE ME KILL?
THAT'S RIGHT... DID ABBOT YUEH SAY ANYTHING UNUSUAL TO YOU BEFORE YOU FOUGHT THE JAPANESE PIRATES?
I DON'T THINK SO... BUT WE SET OFF FOR CHEKIANG ON THE ORDERS OF THE EMPEROR...
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE OUR OWN ABBOT IS IN LEAGUE WITH DEVILS...
I'M SURE HSIANG THE ANCIENT COULD CONVINCE YOU OTHERWISE...
THINK I'LL HAVE ANOTHER WORD WITH THAT FUNNY OLD FELLOW! SHALL WE GO?
BUT THE DOCTOR AND HIS COMPANIONS ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES TRAVELLING ON MOUNT SUNG THIS DAY...
THIS SOLDIER... A MEMBER OF THE PALACE GUARD... HAS GALLOPED FOUR HORSES TO THE POINT OF COLLAPSE...
DOCTOR WHO
DRAGON'S CLAW
NOW, IN A SIMILAR STATE HIMSELF, HE BRINGS...
THE WORD OF THE SON OF HEAVEN! KNEEL... AS IF YOU WERE WITHIN SIGHT OF THE IMPERIAL ONE HIMSELF!
THIS MESSAGE DEMANDS THE PRESENCE OF YUEH KUANG -- THE DULY ORDAINED ABBOT!


AND SOON, WITHIN THE BRONZE MEN HALL...
WELL, YUEH? HAVE YOU CAUGHT THAT MEDDLER YET?
NOT YET, GREAT GARAAN ...BUT WHY CONCERN YOURSELF WITH HIM?
WE HAVE WORD FROM THE EMPEROR..!
AND THE SIMPLE MINDED FOOL HAS PLAYED INTO OUR HANDS AT LAST!
MEANWHILE, FURTHER UP THE MOUNTAIN, SITTING IN MEDITATION...
HSIANG, OLD BEAN! I'VE GOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO --
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THOSE WRETCHES HAVE DONE?
DIDN'T LEAVE MY BREAKFAST, THAT'S WHAT THEY'VE DONE! I'M STARVING!
WELL, I'VE ONLY GOT A FEW JELLY-BABIES, BUT...
HMM, YOU ARE HUNGRY... NOW, TELL ME WHERE THIS 'STAR' FELL...
UP PAST PHOENIX CRAG...
HMM... THESE ARE GOOD!
BY THE JADE-FAIRY POOL...
GOT ANY MORE?
AND, EVENTUALLY...
LOOK, DOCTOR ...HE WAS RIGHT!
I SHOULD HOPE SO TOO! THAT WAS MY LAST BAG OF JELLY-BABIES I BRIBED HIM WITH!
K-9

NOT VERY BIG, IS IT? OR RATHER, WAS IT...
NO, IT WAS ONLY A SCOUT-SHIP... FORTUNATELY! ANYTHING BIGGER AND THEY'D HAVE CONQUERED THE WHOLE PLANET LONG AGO!
HOW COME?
SONTARANS REPRODUCE BY CLONING ... A SHIP THIS SIZE CAN'T HAVE HAD A CELL-BANK... OTHERWISE THEY'D HAVE BRED MILLIONS IN MINUTES...
SO THEY MUST HAVE STRIPPED OUT EVERYTHING OF USE AFTER THE CRASH...
AND NOW THEY'LL BE PLOTTING SOMETHING WITH YUEH...
AND BACK IN THE MONASTERY, THAT PLOT STARTS TO MOVE TOWARD COMPLETION...
BROTHERS! YOU ALL DISTINGUISHED YOURSELVES IN THE MISSION TO CHEKIANG TO FIGHT THE JAPANESE PIRATES...
NOW YOU ARE TO BE REWARDED FOR YOUR VALOUR!
THE EMPEROR HAS COMMANDED OUR PRESENCE IN PEKING...
SO HE CAN HONOUR US WITH HIS THANKS AND INSTRUCTION IN PERSON...
THEN I SHALL SAY A FEW WELL-CHOSEN WORDS...
AND YOU, MY BROTHERS, WILL SLAUGHTER THE ENTIRE IMPERIAL FAMILY...
LEAVING ME AS EMPEROR!


MEANWHILE...
I GUESS THIS MUST BE WHERE THEY HAD THEIR CONTROL PANELS...
BUT THIS LOOKS LIKE SOME-ONE'S BROKEN JEWELLERY!
K-9
BE A GOOD DOG AND GIVE ME AN ANALYSIS OF THIS, K-9!
QUARTZ, MISTRESS. SILICON DIOXIDE IN PURE FORM... COMMONLY KNOWN AS ROCK CRYSTAL...
ROCK CRYSTAL? I HEAR THE ANNAMESE AMBASSADOR BROUGHT SUCH A THING AS TRIBUTE TO THE EMPEROR...
A CRYSTAL AS BIG AS A MAN'S FIST...
SCAN OF CRYSTAL LATTICES SHOWS IT WAS USED FOR AMPLIFYING HYPER-SPACE RADIO EMISSION...
SO THAT'S WHAT THE SONTARANS ARE AFTER!
WITH THEIR OWN SMASHED THEY NEED THE EMPEROR'S CRYSTAL TO RIG UP A TRANSMITTER POWERFUL ENOUGH TO CONTACT THEIR OWN FORCES!
BUT TO GET THAT, THEY'D HAVE TO KILL THE EMPEROR!
DOES THAT SURPRISE YOU?
HOLD ON! THERE'S SOMEONE OVER THERE...
THE WATER-CARRIER... IT'S AH YING... ONLY ONE OF OUR NOVICES, BUT A FRIEND...
I'LL GO AND SPEAK TO HIM...

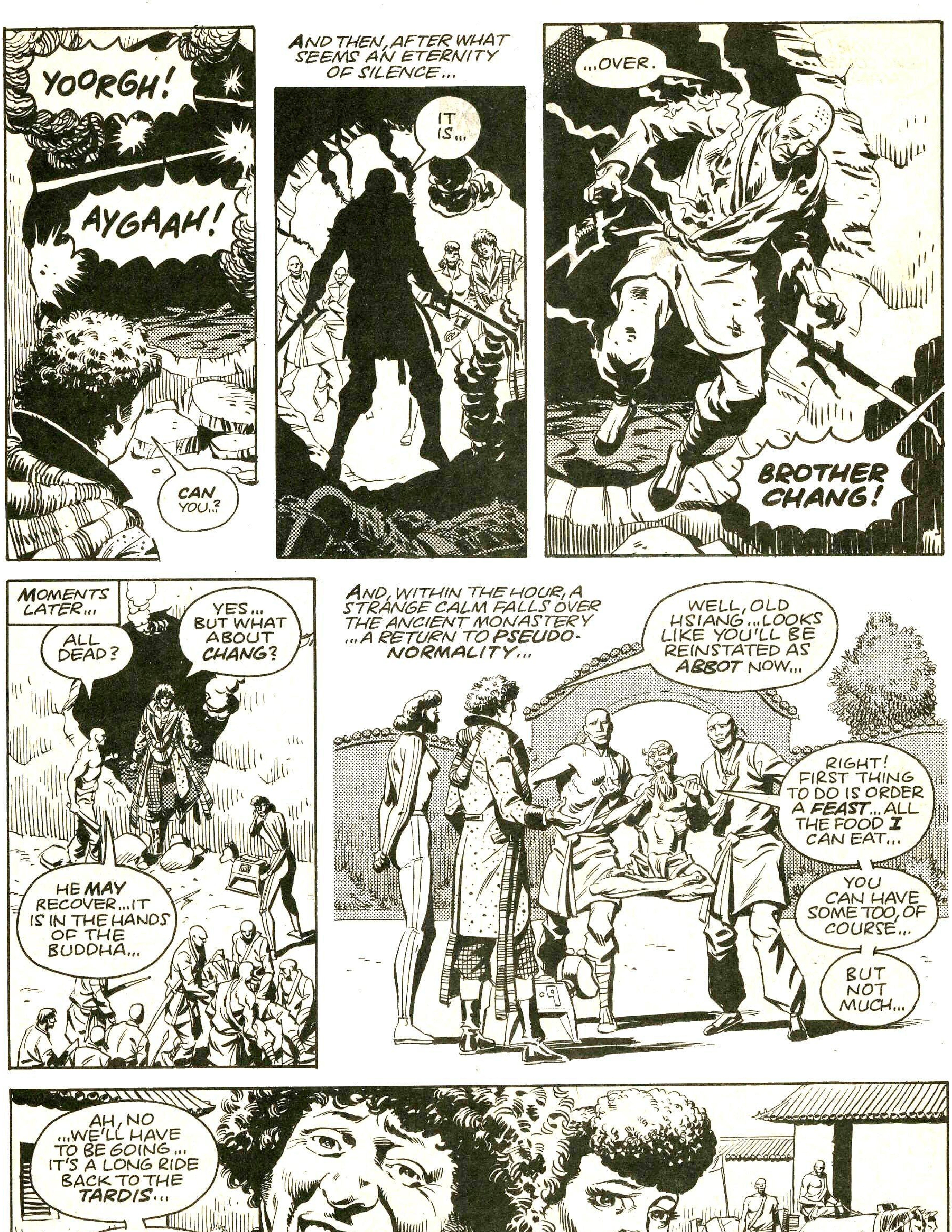

THE SONTARANS MUST HAVE OFFERED YUEH THE THRONE, WHILE THEY GO FOR THE CRYSTAL...
BUT OUR ABBOT ISN'T GOING TO SIT ON IT LONG WHEN THE INVASION FORCE ARRIVES!
THEN...
EVIL NEWS! YUEH'S ABOUT TO TAKE A PICKED GROUP OF MONKS TO PEKING! ALL THE ONES WHO FOUGHT THE PIRATES!
HMM... YOU TWO HAD BETTER SLIP BACK INTO THE MONASTERY...
SABOTAGE SOMETHING... STIR UP TROUBLE ... ANYTHING TO DELAY THEM!
AND SHARON AND I'LL JOIN YOU AS SOON AS WE CAN..!
AND SOON THEREAFTER...
WE'LL SAY SORRY WHEN YOU WAKE UP, BROTHER KUNG...
UUNNH...
NOW... GATHER AS MANY NOVICES AS YOU CAN... I'LL MEET YOU IN THE MAIN COURT-YARD...
AND...
THE 'BRONZE MEN' ARE DEVILS FROM ANOTHER WORLD... AND ABBOT YUEH'S PLOTTING WITH THEM!
THE IMMORTAL WITH THE IRON DOG TOLD ME THIS!
WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?
CHANG!
WE DEMAND TO LOOK INSIDE THE BRONZE MEN HALL! SHOW US WHAT'S GOING ON!
FOOLS! ONLY THE ABBOT CAN GIVE PERMISSION FOR THAT!


AND THAT'S WHO WE'VE GOT HERE! HSIANG THE ANCIENT... THE REAL ABBOT!
WHERE'S MY BREAKFAST?
BE A GOOD CHAP, HSIANG! SAY WHAT I TOLD YOU ... AND THEN WE'LL GET YOU SOMETHING TO EAT!
WHAT? OH, YES...!
AS THE ORIGINALLY ORDAINED ABBOT ...DEPOSED BY TREACHERY... I ORDER THE OPENING OF THE BRONZE MEN HALL!
WAS THAT ALRIGHT? I'M HUNGRY...
OPEN THE HALL!
CAN'T STOP THEM ON MY OWN! YUEH WILL HAVE TO HANDLE THIS!
AND MOMENTS LATER...
STOP ALL THIS FOOLISHNESS, CHANG! YOU CAN'T DEFY ME!
WE CAN...
AND WE DO!
AH, BUT ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SAY THE WORD ... AND YOU WILL BECOME ANOTHER ONE OF MY KILLING SLAVES!
AND YOU CAN'T REACH ME IN TIME TO STOP ME SAYING IT!
MUMBLE YOUR SPELL, FALSE PRIEST! WE WILL NEVER GIVE UP!
GET READY TO RECORD THIS, K-9!

THE BRONZE BUDDHA HAS A HEART OF IRON!
THAT'LL FIX HIM!
WHAT?!
SORRY... DON'T THINK HE HEARD YOU...
CURSE THE FOREIGN DEVIL! I CAN'T SAY IT AGAIN OR THE OTHERS WILL SNAP OUT OF THEIR TRANCES!
BUT THEY'LL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF CHANG!
AND WITHIN MOMENTS...
KILL THEM! THEY'RE YOUR ENEMIES... KILL THEM!
TIME TO PLAY BACK, K-9!
THE BRONZE BUDDHA HAS A HEART OF IRON!
WHAT... AH YING?
WHAT AM I DOING?
WHY ARE WE FIGHTING OUR OWN BROTHERS?
BECAUSE YUEH FORCED YOU TO... BUT NO MORE!

OOPS! I FORGOT YOU, CHANG... WHEN WE SWITCHED THE OTHERS OFF, WE SWITCHED YOU ON!
STAND ASIDE, DOCTOR... I KNOW MY ENEMIES NOW!
ER... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING RASH, ARE YOU?
YUEH KUANG AND LI SAN... YOU'VE MADE ME WHAT I AM... NOW YOU'LL PAY!
LI CAN KEEP CHANG OCCUPIED... WHILE I DISPOSE OF HSIANG THE ANCIENT AND THAT INFERNAL DOCTOR...!
BUT...
K-9!
TAKEN CARE OF, MASTER!
WHA...?
AND BEFORE K-9 CAN FIRE AGAIN...
BAH! STAR-WEAPON OR NOT... I CAN STILL MANGLE AN OLD FOOL LIKE YOU!
OLD? FOOL?
HRUMPH! YOUNG WHIPPER-SNAPPER!
GLARG!

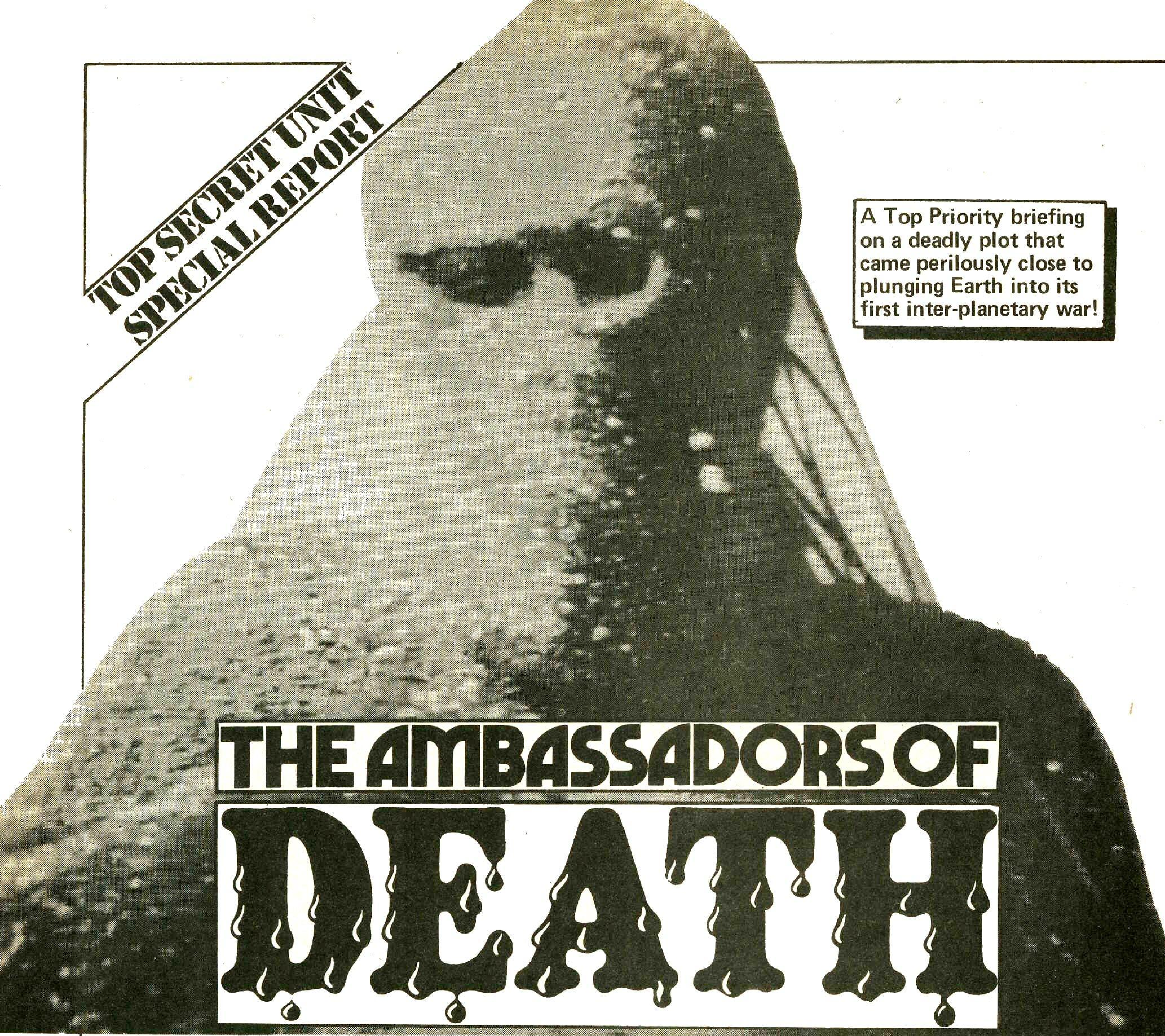
DOCTOR! HERE COMES CHANG!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, CHANG? WHAT ABOUT LI?
LI FOUGHT WELL...
I'LL HAVE TO GET HIM AWAY WHERE NO ONE ELSE CAN HEAR AND PLAY BACK K-9'S TAPE... OTHERWISE HE'LL CREATE HAVOC!
BUT THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT NOW! WE'VE GOT TO GET INTO THE BRONZE MEN HALL!
AND...
FULL-POWER BLAST THAT WALL, K-9... AND WE'LL SEE WHAT SORT OF HORNET'S NEST THAT STIRS UP!
AFFIRMATIVE, MASTER!
K-9
VA-WUMMPF!
NOW, AS SOON AS ANY SONTARANS APPEAR, I WANT YOU TO STOP THEM, K-9...
MASTER...!
ZZZ
ZAKK!
YAUUGH!
NO NEED FOR YOUR IRON DOG, DOCTOR...
THEY WILL NOT BE COMING OUT!
NO, CHANG! YOU CAN'T...!


YOORGH!
AYGAAH!
CAN YOU..?
AND THEN, AFTER WHAT SEEMS AN ETERNITY OF SILENCE...
IT IS...
...OVER.
BROTHER CHANG!
MOMENTS LATER...
ALL DEAD?
YES... BUT WHAT ABOUT CHANG?
HE MAY RECOVER... IT IS IN THE HANDS OF THE BUDDHA...
AND, WITHIN THE HOUR, A STRANGE CALM FALLS OVER THE ANCIENT MONASTERY ...A RETURN TO PSEUDO-NORMALITY...
WELL, OLD HSIANG... LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE REINSTATED AS ABBOT NOW...
RIGHT! FIRST THING TO DO IS ORDER A FEAST... ALL THE FOOD I CAN EAT...
YOU CAN HAVE SOME TOO, OF COURSE...
BUT NOT MUCH...
AH, NO ...WE'LL HAVE TO BE GOING... IT'S A LONG RIDE BACK TO THE TARDIS...
IF I'M EVER PASSING THIS TIME AGAIN, I DROP OFF A BAG OF JELLY-BABIES FOR YOU...
THE END.

**NEXT ISSUE** THE DOCTOR, SHARON AND K-9 MEET... THE **COLLECTOR!**

TOP SECRET UNIT
SPECIAL REPORT

**A Top Priority briefing on a deadly plot that came perilously close to plunging Earth into its first inter-planetary war!**



# THE AMBASSADORS OF
# DEATH

Xenophobia — the unreasonable fear of those whose faces, forms and customs are different to our own. A terrifying and mysterious disease of the mind that can paralyse a victim with fear, shock the brain into near insanity . . . or drive a man to kill . . .

General Carrington, head of the Space Security Department, was a Xenophobe — although no-one at the time knew it. He kept his fear of alien life forms secret. After all, it would hardly do for a former astronaut and senior military leader to admit to wanting to destroy the very alien beings which the Mars Probe Project so desperately sought. Then again, at the time of his selection for the Mars Probe 6 mission, no such mental erosion existed . . . The disease had been the result of an accident that occurred on the Red Planet — a disease that triggered off a series of events which came perilously close to plunging Earth into its first inter-planetary war!

It was from England, at the site of the former British Rocket Group, that Man's first attempts to land on Mars were controlled and monitored. From the military cream of every European nation contributing to the programme, Carrington was chosen to captain the two-man crew that blasted off in a Mars-Probe for the start of its seven month voyage to Mars. Press, film and television coverage was worldwide — space was no longer the sole domain of Russia and America, it was the final frontier open to all Mankind with hopes never higher that one day Man might find that he was not alone in the universe. With bated breath, humanity observed the landing of the capsule on Martian soil. Eagerly the first telecasts from Mars were awaited but none came. . . Space Control was informed that out on the surface of Mars something had gone terribly wrong!

Space Control knew only one thing — that Carrington's co-astronaut had died, but Carrington himself would give no details until the capsule had safely touched down back on Earth. There had been a terrible accident, he later reported to Sir James Quinlan, the Minister for Technology and Space Research, an accident caused by Man's first encounters with beings from another world!

Although vaguely humanoid, the creatures were unlike anything quite ressembling man! These

**Above:** *The Doctor in his roadster with General Carrington (Jon Abineri), the Brigadier (Nicholas Courtney) and Liz Shaw (Caroline John).* **Left:** *The Martian alien captain — an Ambassador of Death!* **Below:** *Alien astronaut "Michaels" (Peter Simons).*

strange beings lived on radiation, absorbing and emitting radioactivity at over two million rads! It was the radiation that had killed Carrington's co-astronaut — they were not aware that their touch could kill humans. The aliens proclaimed themselves to be friendly and eager to establish peaceful contact with Earth. Man had now progressed to a sufficient level of technology for intelligent contact to be made. It would be Carrington's role to pave the way for the Martian Ambassadors to come to the planet Earth!

The young officer agreed but as Mars Probe 6 blasted off on its long homeward journey, Carrington's mind began hatching a plan of terrible evil. The death of his friend, plus the traumatic effects of being surrounded by creatures almost too revolting to contemplate, had jolted the astronaut's brain into an intense fear for the Martians. There would be no peaceful contact between Earth and Mars . . . Carrington was already hatching a plot to ensure that Humanity would never be polluted by contact with so vile a form of life!

Naturally this last part was kept secret from Sir James Quinlan. At this point in time Carrington was only interested in using the Ministry's resources to provide a means for the Ambassadors to arrive on Earth. Here Carrington was successful. "If the Ambassadors are coming to Earth," the Minister announced, " then it will be to Britain's advantage. For now the rest of the world will be kept in the dark."

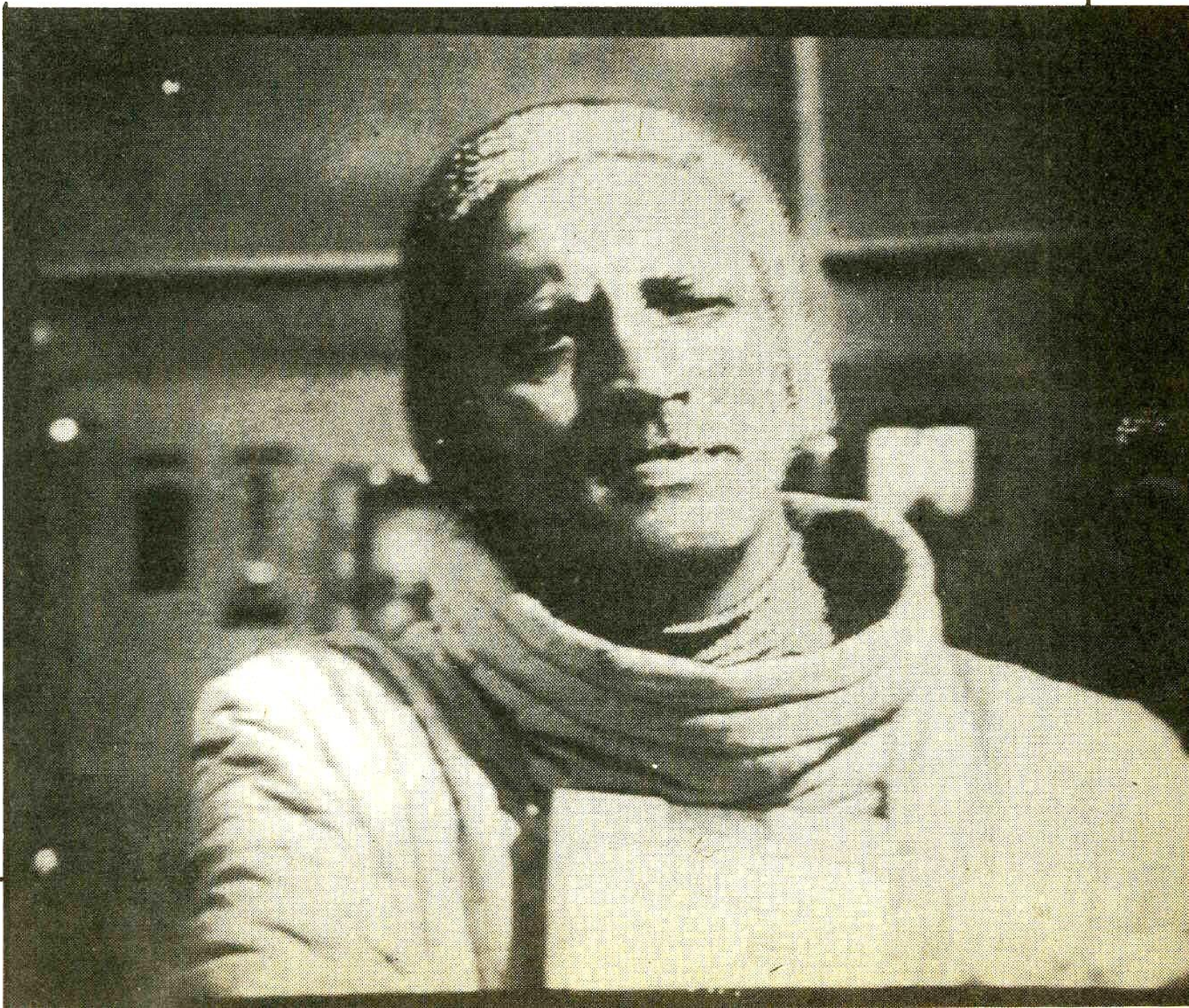
Promoted to the rank of General and put at the head of the newly formed Space Security Department, Carrington was charged with making the secret arrangements for the Ambassadors' arrival.

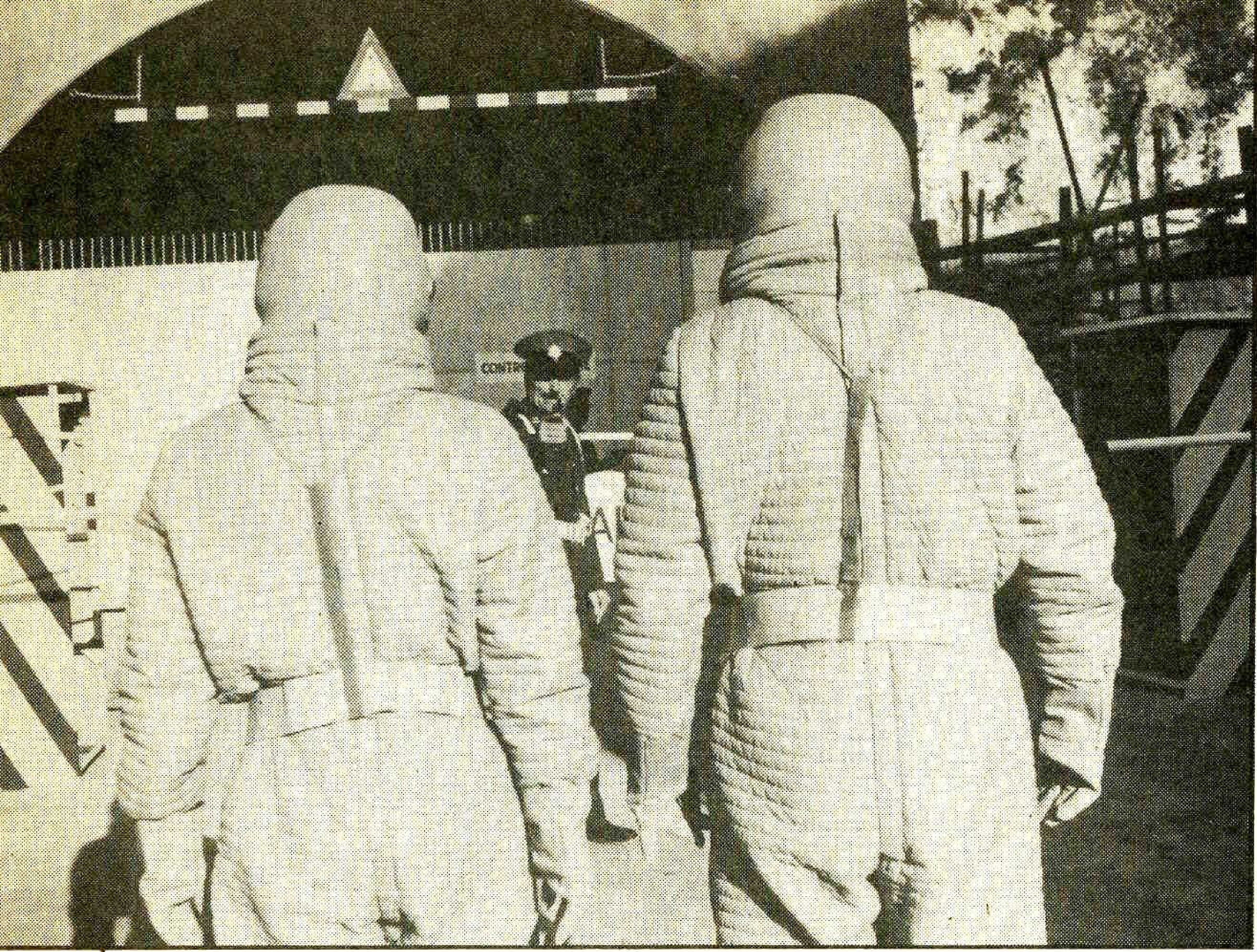
It had been agreed that, to avoid public panic, the aliens would not use their own spacecraft. Rather, they would wait until Mars Probe 7 landed, exchange the astronauts for the three chosen Ambassadors and travel to Earth in the capsule.

The plan was meticulously executed. Even as Space Control announced the successful launch of Mars Probe 7, Quinlan and Carrington were preparing. A team of specialists was recruited in secret and told of the coming of the Ambassadors, special equipment would be needed and above all else, a hidden location would have to be readied to house Man's first alien visitors. Carrington undertook these arrangements personally.

Unaware of Carrington's true motives, Sir James played his part to perfection. He supplied all necessary equipment — vehicles,space communications equipment, armaments, and a detachment of soldiers. Security was absolute. Space Control Director Cornish was not told, and neither was Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart, of UNIT's British division. The Martians would meet a purely private audience — at least, to begin with . . .

On Mars, the alien Ambassadors played out their part in the drama. When Mars Probe 7 landed, Michaels and Lefee were placed in hypnotic trances and retained aboard the alien mother-ship. The three Ambassadors boarded the capsule and lifted off in total radio silence. This too was part of the plan. One further astronaut was now needed because *three* Ambassadors would disembark on touchdown. Sure enough, when no radio signals were recieved from the space-ship, astronaut Charles Van Lyden was sent to investigate. The two vessels docked in space, where Van Lyden was seized by the Ambassadors. The only transmission to reach Earth was a deafening electronic howl . . . the sig-





**Above:** *Two alien astronauts, pawns in Carrington's deadly plan of prejudice and hate.* **Below.** *UNIT's scientific advisor (Jon Pertwee) and his assistant Liz Shaw, set out to investigate the mystery of the silent space capsules.*

nal to begin the next phase . . .

No-one at Space Control understood the curious sound, but to the secret listeners at a warehouse in London, the message was clear. The aliens were sending both a request to confirm their expectance, and the data needed to build a machine which would enable the two races to communicate. The "go" reply was sent.

Only one other knew of the secret transmission . . .UNIT's scientific advisor, code name, the Doctor!

Badly in need of a diversion to occupy his mind away from his exile the Doctor had plunged himself into the case of the silent space capsules with a vengeance, and the more he investigated the mystery, the more it became apparent that a lot of information was being covered up. With the Brigadier and Liz Shaw to help him, the Doctor set out, determined to uncover the truth!

Obviously, the first step was to interview the astronauts. The capsule touched down but Quinlan's team removed the astronauts before UNIT could arrive on the scene. The Doctor demanded to see General Carrington but the officer's vague explanation about radiation poisoning left the Doctor unconvinced, He demanded to see the astronauts themselves!

Carrington was forced to show his hand. Kidnapping the Ambassadors from the care of Quinlan's scientists they were taken to a secret hideout. Quinlan's usefulness in this grand scheme of terror was now drawing to a close . . .

Via the transmitter, Carrington informed the Ambassadors that if they did not obey his instructions, their supply of radioactive isotopes would be cut off. The bewildered aliens had no choice. Under instructions they attacked Space Control and with their deadly radioactive touch killed Quinlan. To the outside world it looked all too clearly as if the aliens' purpose in coming to Earth was a combination of destruction and conquest!

Carrington had succeeded — he accused the Ambassadors of murder and said that they were out to pillage Mankind of his radioactive material.

With his plan near to completion, Carrington placed the Space Centre under martial law and proposed the use of the worldwide telecast system installed there to broadcast a picture of an Ambassador without his space helmet. This, plus news of the many deaths and injuries, would convince the peoples of the world to attack and destroy these alien visitors. "They will be driven off," he announced to the captive Brigadier,"my moral duty to the world will have been achieved."

Tension rose even as the Doctor sped to Space Control to avert disaster. Having heard no word from their Ambassadors, the Martians demanded their immediate return. If their request was not granted they would completely annihilate Earth!

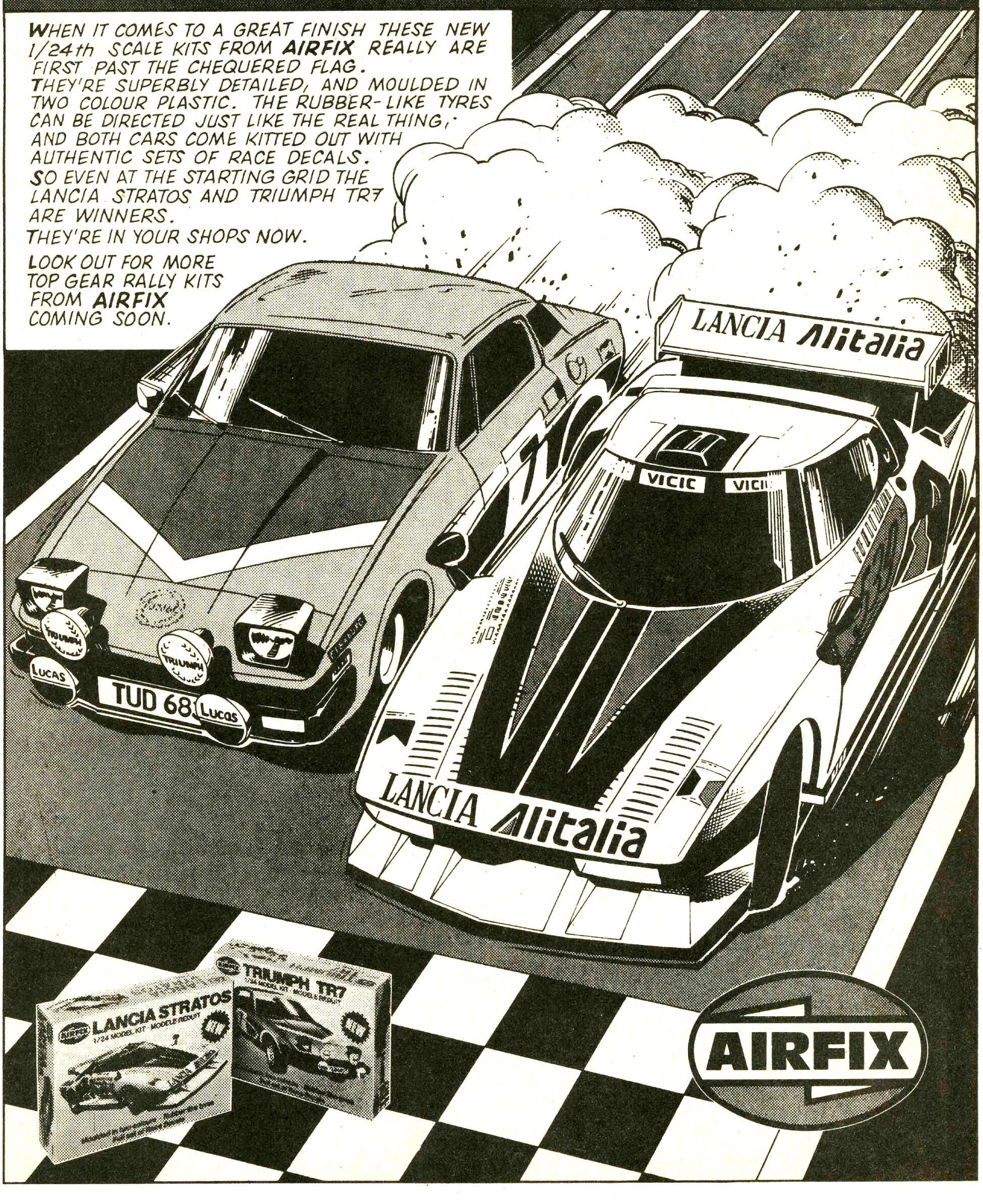
In the end it was the alien Ambassadors themselves who halted the fateful telecast — aided, of course, by the Doctor.

With Carrington under arrest, the Doctor brooded on Man's strange set of values that permit him to contemplate murder, prejudice and hate under the guise of moral duty. Tired of the company of humans for a while, the Doctor left them to make arrangements for the exchange of astronauts. His place was elsewhere — repairing the TARDIS that would one day give him back his access to the whole universe!

ONE OF THE BEST FINISHES SEEN IN RACING HISTORY

WHEN IT COMES TO A GREAT FINISH THESE NEW 1/24th SCALE KITS FROM **AIRFIX** REALLY ARE FIRST PAST THE CHEQUERED FLAG.
THEY'RE SUPERBLY DETAILED, AND MOULDED IN TWO COLOUR PLASTIC. THE RUBBER-LIKE TYRES CAN BE DIRECTED JUST LIKE THE REAL THING; AND BOTH CARS COME KITTED OUT WITH AUTHENTIC SETS OF RACE DECALS.
SO EVEN AT THE STARTING GRID THE LANCIA STRATOS AND TRIUMPH TR7 ARE WINNERS.
THEY'RE IN YOUR SHOPS NOW.

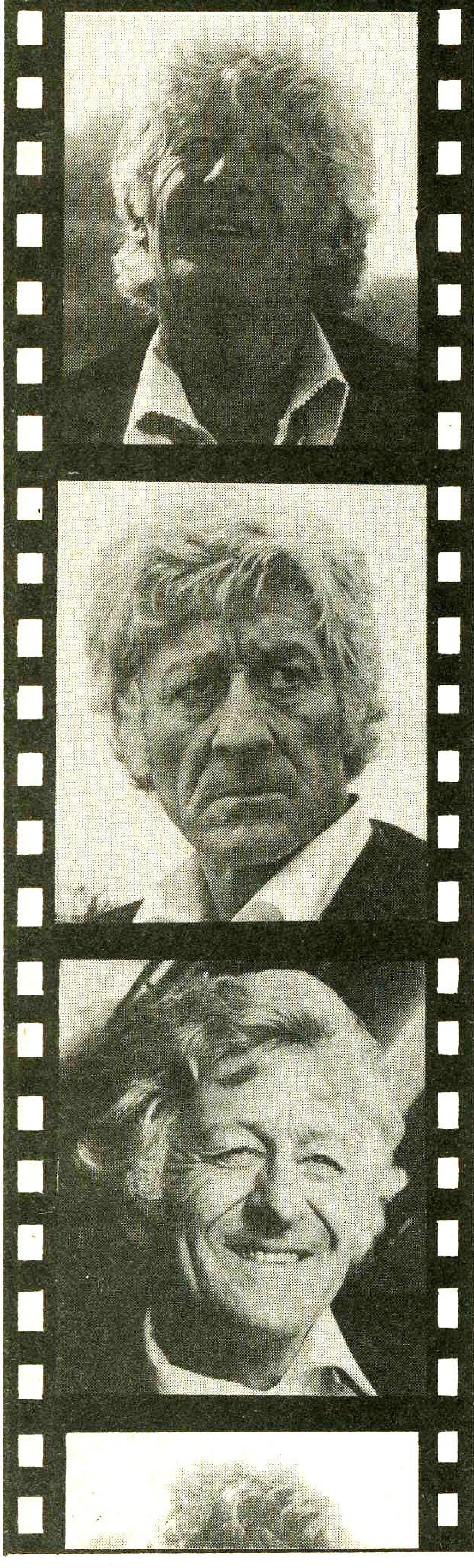
LOOK OUT FOR MORE TOP GEAR RALLY KITS FROM **AIRFIX** COMING SOON.


LANCIA Alitalia
VICIC
VICI
TRIUMPH
TRIUMPH
Lucas
Lucas
TUD 68
LANCIA Alitalia
TRIUMPH TR7
LANCIA STRATOS
1/24 MODEL KIT · MODELE REDUIT

AIRFIX

# Star Profile

# JON PERTWEE



Jon Pertwee occupies a unique position in the field of show-business. Aside from his enormous versatility as an actor he has an uncanny ability to make a towering success out of anything he cares to involve himself in. For many years he was compulsive listening to radio fans of **The Waterlogged Spa** and **The Navy Lark.** He then supplied many characters for the **Carry On** films and his most recent endeavour as the cantakerous scarecrow, **Worzel Gummidge**, has already netted two highly rated television seasons and a film currently in production!

With this vast history of comic acting it would seem, on the surface, an odd departure for Jon **Pertwee to play the role of Dr Who**, but whenever he is confronted by this Jon always points to the many eccentricities common to the Doctor and himself. "I used to leave the Doctor in the studio" commented Jon to Stuart Money — his fan club president — "but the Doctor was me. He was an extension of myself, a complete extension." Justifying his argument, Jon would point to the many gadgets the third Doctor resorted to during his five years on screen. Many of them: fast cars, motor bikes, speed boats and the like were all things with which Jon surrounds himself in his private life. By self confession he is gadget-mad and loves anything new and extraordinary in the mechanical field.

During the five year period he worked as the Doctor, Jon found a willing supporter for his gadget addiction in the person of Producer Barry Letts. Barry would often scour boat shows and motor exhibitions looking for new methods of fast travel that could somehow be incorporated into the **Dr Who** series.

Jon ruefully remembers all the equipment used during the chase sequence in episode two of "Planet of the Spiders". For this "final fling" Barry dug up speed boats, autogyros and hovercrafts to spice up the Doctor's pursuit of Lupton through the English countryside, and Jon Pertwee got to drive most of his exotic hardware himself. "I almost wish they hadn't,"confessed Jon to an audience of fans in 1978, "because I ended up buying most of it!"

Another element of Jon's portrayal of the Doctor was his love of flamboyant and extrovert clothes. Again, as Jon insisted, these were further reflections of himself. Long before he first appeared in the programme, Jon was asked to do a photo-call for the press for which he would be required in costume. "So," said Jon, "I found my grandfather's old Inverness cape, a smoking jacket I possessed and, a frilly shirt." The image stuck and to this day Jon is still remembered as the best dressed of all the four Doctors.

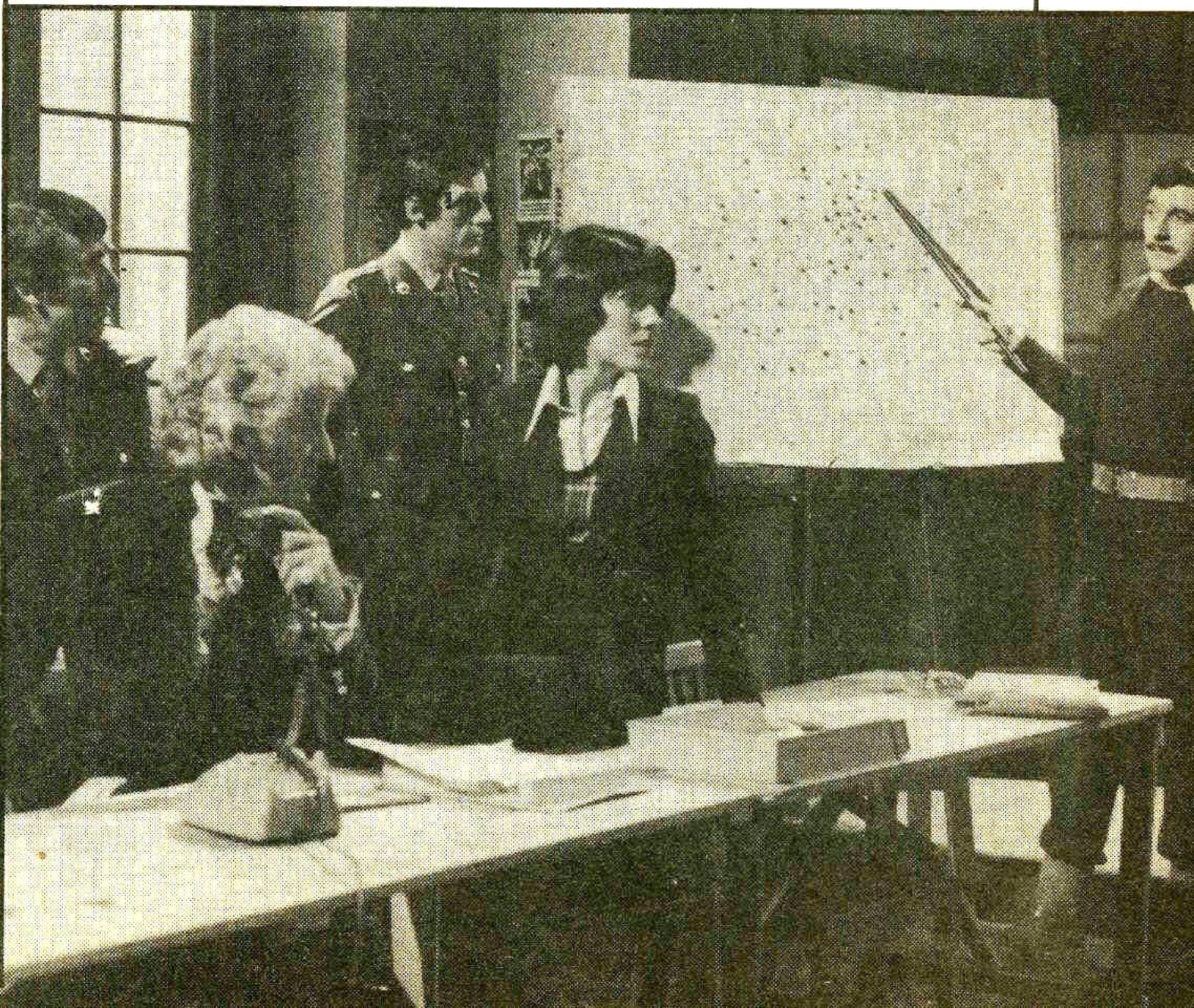
Memories of his five years in **Dr Who** are very close to Jon Pertwee and in particular he recalled the days when Roger Delgado appeared in the series as The Master before his tragic death in a car crash. "Roger was one of the most gentle people I've ever known" he said. "He

*Aboard the Whomobile! The Doctor (Jon Pertwee) and Sarah Jane Smith (Elizabeth Sladen) in the 1974 adventure "The Planet of the Spiders".*

had a tremendous temper but would always point it at himself during rehearsals, going absolutely berserk if he couldn't get anything right, but always with himself." Thinking back to "The Mind of Evil"story, John remembered a scene where the Master pulled a gun on the Doctor, to which the Doctor replied by shoving a table over in front of him. Unfortunately a vase of flowers in water spilled all over the painted floor turning into a surface reminiscent of an ice rink. Neither of the two actors could stand up properly and skidded and scrambled terribly as they sought to maintain their balance during the all-important fight scene!

Ever eager to promote the series off stage as well as on, Jon saw the programme's steady rise in the ratings plus all the many spin-offs that emerged between 1970 and 1974. Target Books commenced in May 1973 and the Blackpool and Longleat exhibitions opened their doors to the public the following year. Products from Holiday Specials to breakfast cereals bore his face, and even **Dr Who** road safety commercials were produced to teach children the correct way to cross a road! Jon Pertwee's stamp on **Dr Who** can never be forgotten.

**Left:** *On yet another piece of exotic hardware, the Doctor with Jo Grant (Katy Manning).* **Below:** *The Doctor (Jon Pertwee) listens intently to a briefing by UNIT's Commanding Officer (Nicholas Courtney), in the 1974 battle against a bizarre invasion of Dinosaurs!*



# UNIT HOTLINE

Attention all UNIT undercover agents! Here are this week's coded messages hot from HQ!

## SECURITY CODE GREEN

LARHEWA GE EOM ZAL
OZKAMHEFAM WICIVUZA.
LA WOXG IRR HEZGUZOA GE
PUCTG GTA IRUAZ GTMAIG
NEOM KOGN UX GE NEOM
DRIZAG.

## SECURITY CODE RED

*PRPRNSRITU! MMIYD*
*TMIVRNTLORN IGSRID*
*T6747 IXGA RNRWLNDRV BG*
*IVGCRZ CAYSXDYIS NYI*
*RILNDX OCLIVLI. IZRRW OG*
*JTLIADGID AOYSYCGITR SYI*
*AULMN AARTDLN.*

## HOTLINE QUIZ...

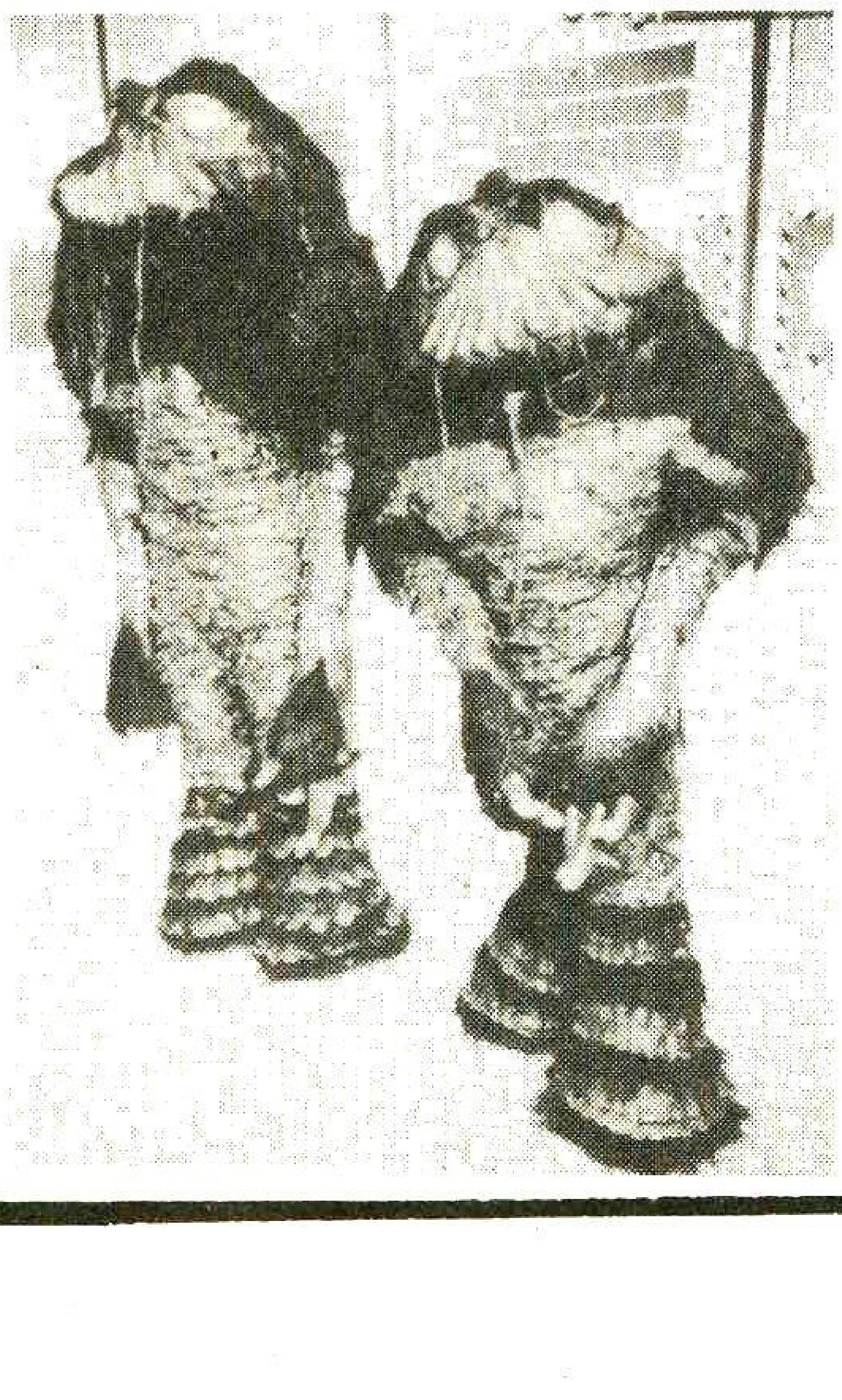
Calling all UNIT Force fighters! Have you been properly briefed? Here's your chance to find out in our brain teasing Hotline quiz!

1. The Cybermen are one of the rare alien races to keep robotic pets. What are these small deadly creatures called?
2. Why did the Doctor recently travel to Brighton?
3. From which nearby planet did the Ambassadors of Death originate?
4. It only takes one simple phrase to turn the Shaolin monks into ruthless killers. What is it?
5. Carrington, Head of the Space Security Department suffered from a disease that drove him to kill. What was it?

ANSWERS: 1.Cybermats, 2.For the opening of the Brighton Pavilion, 3.Mars, 4."The bronze Buddha has a heart of iron", 5. Xenophobia.

## No.18 MANDRELS

## KNOW YOUR ENEMY



**SUBJECT:** The Mandrels

**PLANET OF ORIGIN:** Eden

**WEAPONRY:** Large, hooked claws

**HISTORY:** An investigation into a terrible drug, Vraxion, commonly known as "Zip" to those unfortunate enough to fall under its deadly effects, brought to UNIT's attention an alien race known as the Mandrels.

Large and savage, the Mandrels are creatures formed directly out of their planet's primordial mud. They are vicious creatures who instinctively hunt to kill. Yet, for all their grisly ulginess, the Mandrels came to play an integral part in a sophisticated drug trafficking circle. When a Mandrel dies it rapidly loses all moisture until nothing is left except a heap of fine powder. UNIT analysis reveals it to be pure Vraxion. The Mandrels, dangerous though they are, became the victims of criminals who would savagely murder them for the lethal drug.

Through the intervention of UNIT's scientific advisor, code name, the Doctor, the Mandrels were safely returned to Eden, yet a close watch must be made in case these creatures attempt to take revenge on mankind for the dreadful crimes committed against their race.

K-9 NEW! T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS ON SALE NOW!

Tee-Shirts and Sweatshirts featuring the Doctor's faithful companion, **K-9**, are now available from the DAP Dr. Who Mail Order Service.
The shirts feature a **large print** of K-9 in **grey & red** and are available in **four different colours:** beige, white, grey and wheatmeal.
The sizes and prices of the various sizes of Tshirt/Sweatshirt are as follows:
**CHILDREN'S T-SHIRTS** cost only **£2.50** and come in sizes of 24'', 26'', 28'' and 30''. 100% Cotton.
**CHILDREN'S SWEAT SHIRTS** cost only **£5.25** and are available in the following sizes: Small, Medium or Large. 50% Acrylic 50% Cotton.
**ADULT T-SHIRTS** are £2.75 and come in Small (32''/34''), Medium (36''/38'') or Large (40''/42''). 100% cotton.
**ADULT SWEAT SHIRTS** cost only **£6.75** and are also available in S, M or L. 50% Acrylic 50% Cotton.
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To order merely write out the kind of shirt you require, the colour, the size, the quantity and total price. Please write your name and address clearly and send your Cheque or P.O. to Denis Alan Print at our **new** address:
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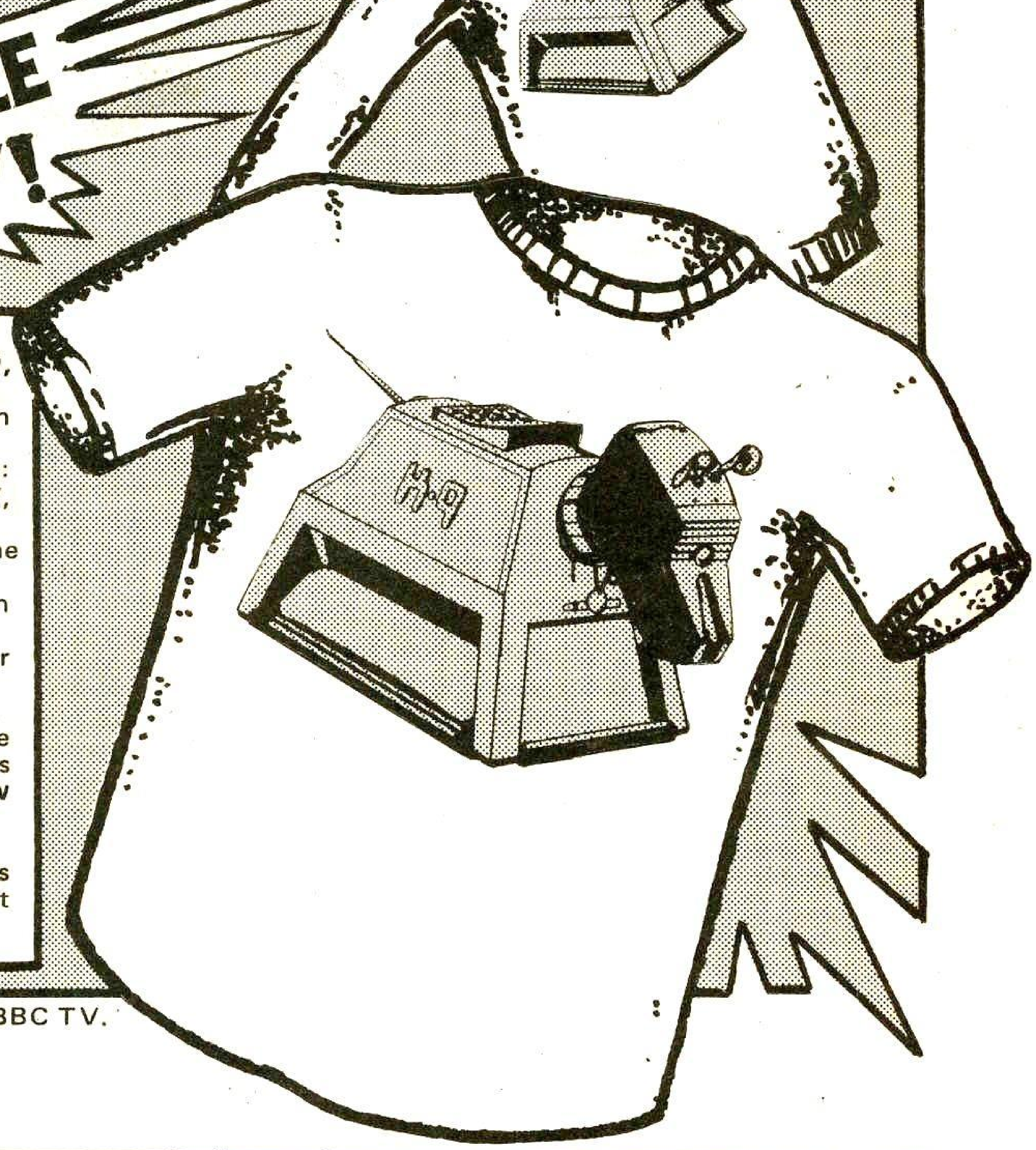

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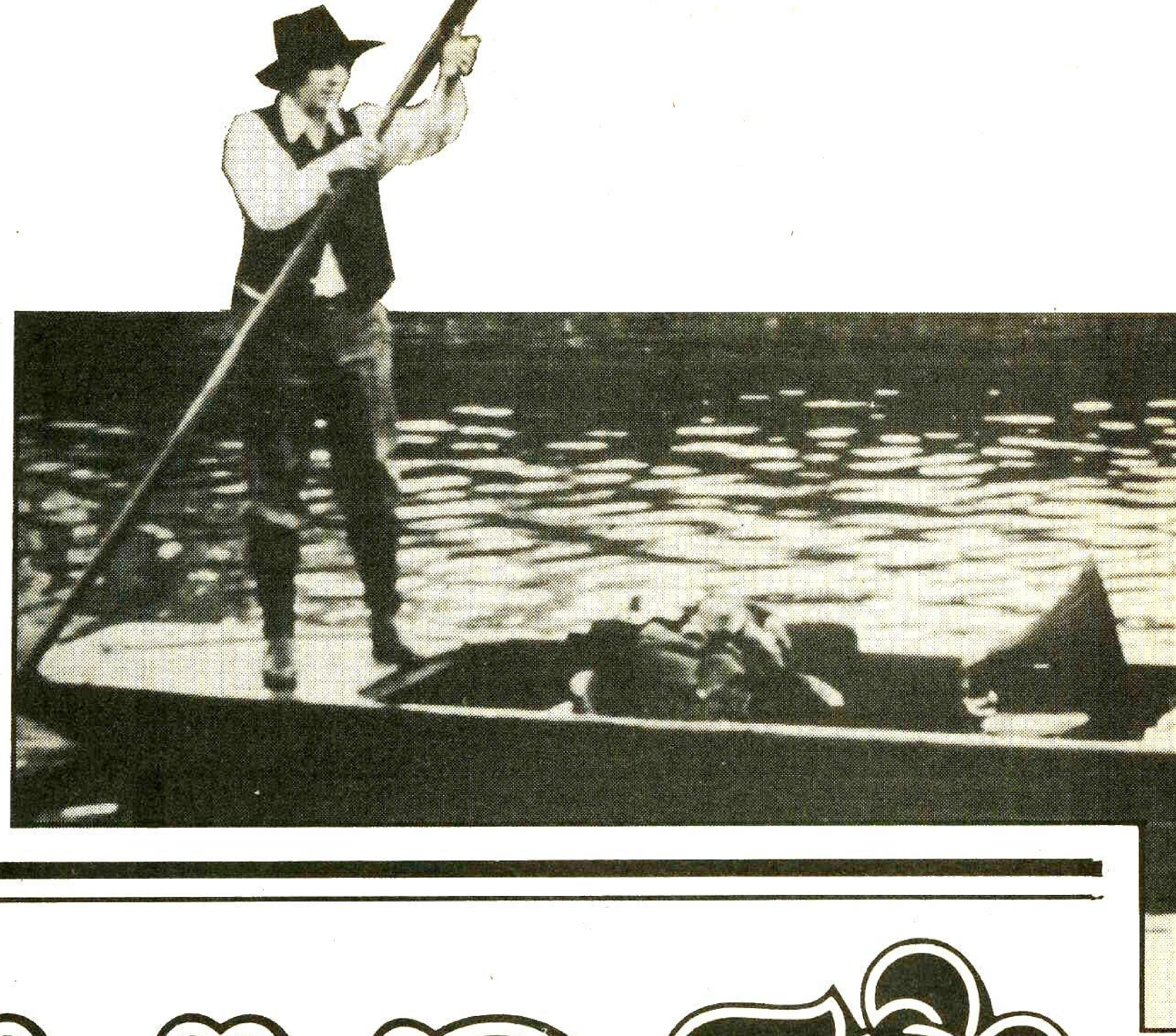
*YELLOW JACKET*CAPTAIN AMERICA*
*IRON MAN*THE BEAST*

# SHADA
## The Lost Story



It was one of the few battles **Dr Who** ever lost. It was a tough war and the **Dr Who** team fought valiantly. After an early defeat at the beginning of the year a further campaign was undertaken in the spring enlisting new and powerful allies. In the end, however, the obstacles proved insurmountable and a final retreat was ordered.

The above could easily read as a storyline for a fictional **Dr Who** adventure. Sadly, though, the scenario was all too real, and concerned events surrounding production of the six part **Dr Who** story, "Shada", which was to have been the last story of the previous season.

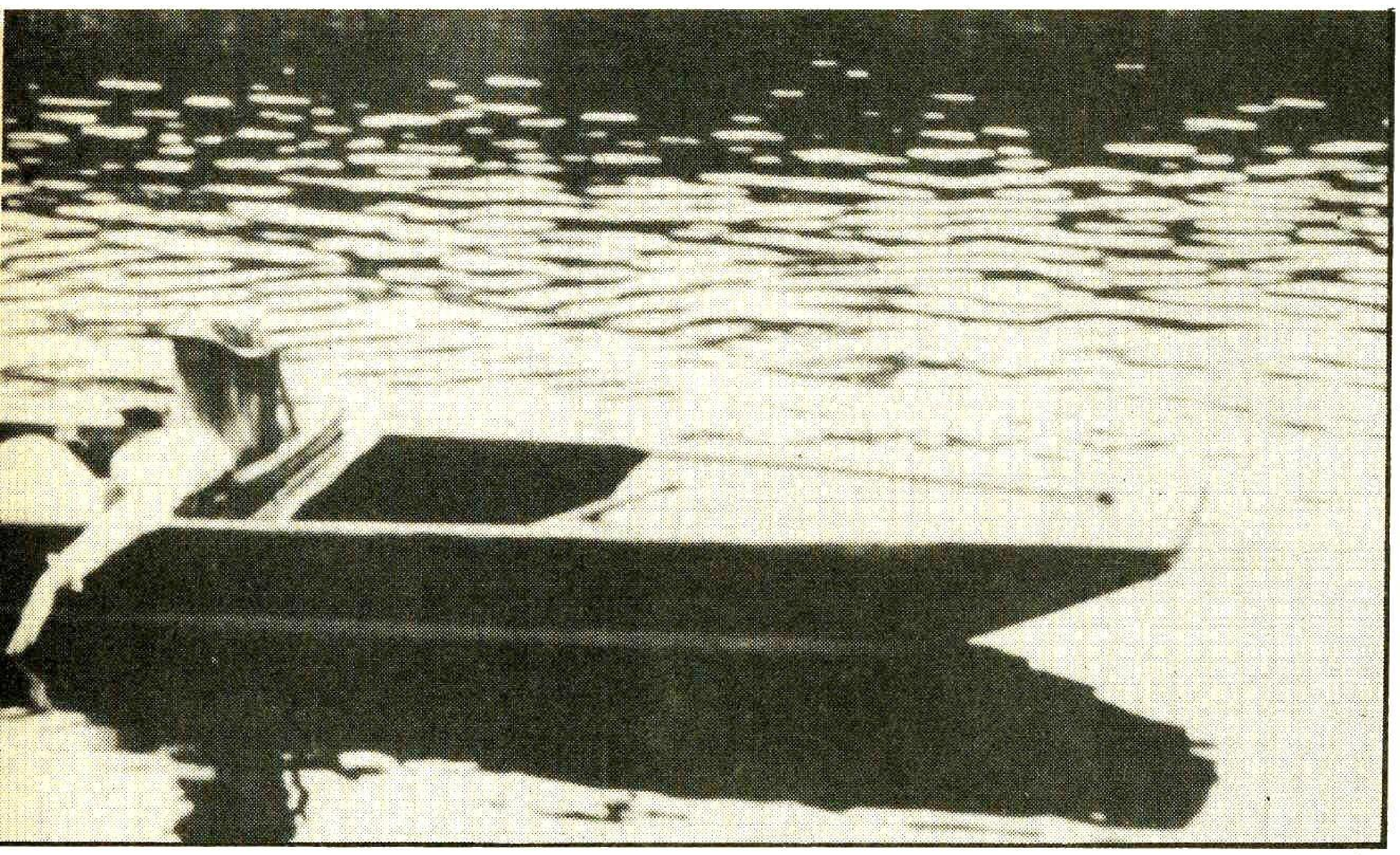
"Shada" was a very lavish production with locations ranging from the beautiful Cambridge countryside to the sombre environment of a prison world. The story was written by "Hitch Hiker" creator Douglas Adams and directed by Pennant Roberts, known to **Dr Who** fans for his work on "The Face of Evil", "The Sun Makers" and "The Pirate Planet".

In choosing an opening location for "Shada", Douglas Adams returned to his youth setting the serial in present day Cambridge University. Filming began early in October at Emmanuel College whose name would be changed to St Cedd's for the purposes of the story. Maximum use was made of the very picturesque surroundings including the college exteriors, the Cam river — with punts — and the town of Cambridge itself. The major chase sequence that would close episode two involved the Doctor, Tom Baker, in a hazardous bicycle ride at great speed through the winding streets of the town with cameo musical accompaniment by the Cambridge Choristers.

Recalling the week of filming at the University, assistant K-9 operator, Stephen Cambden, remembered the problems Tom Baker encountered in trying to steer a punt. Tom Baker, very much a landlubber at heart, managed to move the punt in every conceivable direction except the one indicated by the Director! He spun it, pitched it and even jammed the pole into the river bed while Lalla Ward, a nervous passenger, prayed for deliverance! Stephen recounted that on the one occasion Tom did steer the punt in for a perfect landing the cameras were not rolling!

Among the brilliant special effects designed by David Havard for "Shada" was the Think Tank globe — a perfect sphere which flew through the air towards its intended victim. As the sphere touched the head of its target it would drain all his or her knowledge into the tank and thence communicate it to Skagra. A very ingenious device was put together by Dave Havard to launch the sphere from Skagra's hand where it normally rested like some demonic witch's familiar. An electric car aerial was fitted to Christopher Neame's wrist. With the sphere properly positioned the globe could be made to glide smoothly into the air from its master's hand by activating the aerial motor. This eliminated any wobble and made the finished effect look very chilling.

With work completed at Cambridge, the cast and crew returned to London to begin studio rehearsals for the three fortnightly blocks of studio filming at the BBC's Television Centre



# A FINAL RETREAT...

**Top:** *The Doctor and Romana taking a punt on the Cam.* **Above:** *Romana (Lalla Ward) studies the Law of Gallifrey.*

The many threads of "Shada's" devious plotline began to come together.

"Shada" concerned a book, a very special book – the Law of Gallifrey. It was written in a language almost impossible to decipher. It was not just a book of reference, it held time travel secrets that in the wrong hands could do untold harm . . . The story involved a Time Lord called Salyavin who pocessed the ability to project his will into others and for his efforts he was branded a traitor by his people and sentenced to exile on the Time Lords' prison world.

Centuries later Skagra, a mind thief, learning of the Book's existence began a fanatical drive to find it, knowing that if successful, he could restructure the framework of the entire universe!

Now the trail has led him to Cambridge where a bumbling absent-minded college professor named Chronotis would appear to know something of the Book's whereabouts. Somehow Chronotis has managed to summon the help of the Doctor and Romana to help him fight the evil megalomaniac.

As events unfold it becomes clear that Chronotis is a retired Time Lord who came to Earth 300 years ago to spend his retirement teaching science at St Cedd's.

Two students at the college become embroiled in the cosmic battle, Chris Parsons and his girl friend, Clare Keightly. Thrust into a situation totally outside their comprehension, they must survive the struggle between the Time Lords, Skagra, the mind-draining globe, invisible space-crafts and the thief's terrible guard monsters – the Krargs. Through it all one word is mutedly mentioned; that of Shada. Who is Shada? What is it? Where is it? And how does it effect the sinister plans of Skagra?

Slowly the truth dawns. Shada was the prison world of the Time Lords – a floating rock in space whose existence was erased from the minds of the High Council by Salyavin. The representatives of evil are kept in eternal inprisonment: Zygons, Cybermen, the Daleks, and of course, Salyavin.

The Doctor and company race to Shada, to beat the hunting Skagra, only to find Salyavin's cell empty. "Yes it would be" elucidates Chronotis, "You see I escaped centuries ago". Salyavin is Chronotis whose sole wish in life is to forget the terrible power granted to him. The Book revealed Shada's co-ordinates and now Skagra wants Salyavins's knowledge.

In the final battle Skagra steals Salyavin's mind and prepares his plan to dominate all things everywhere. Only the Doctor can stop him!

"An epic story with something for everyone," said former producer Graham Williams, during one of the studio filming sessions.

Sadly "Shada" was never completed. The second of the three filming blocks was dogged by industrial action at the BBC and the third had to be cancelled due to the commitments of other programmes needing studio time. The cans of completed tape were placed in the vaults and the 17th **Dr Who** season suffered a premature end early in January.

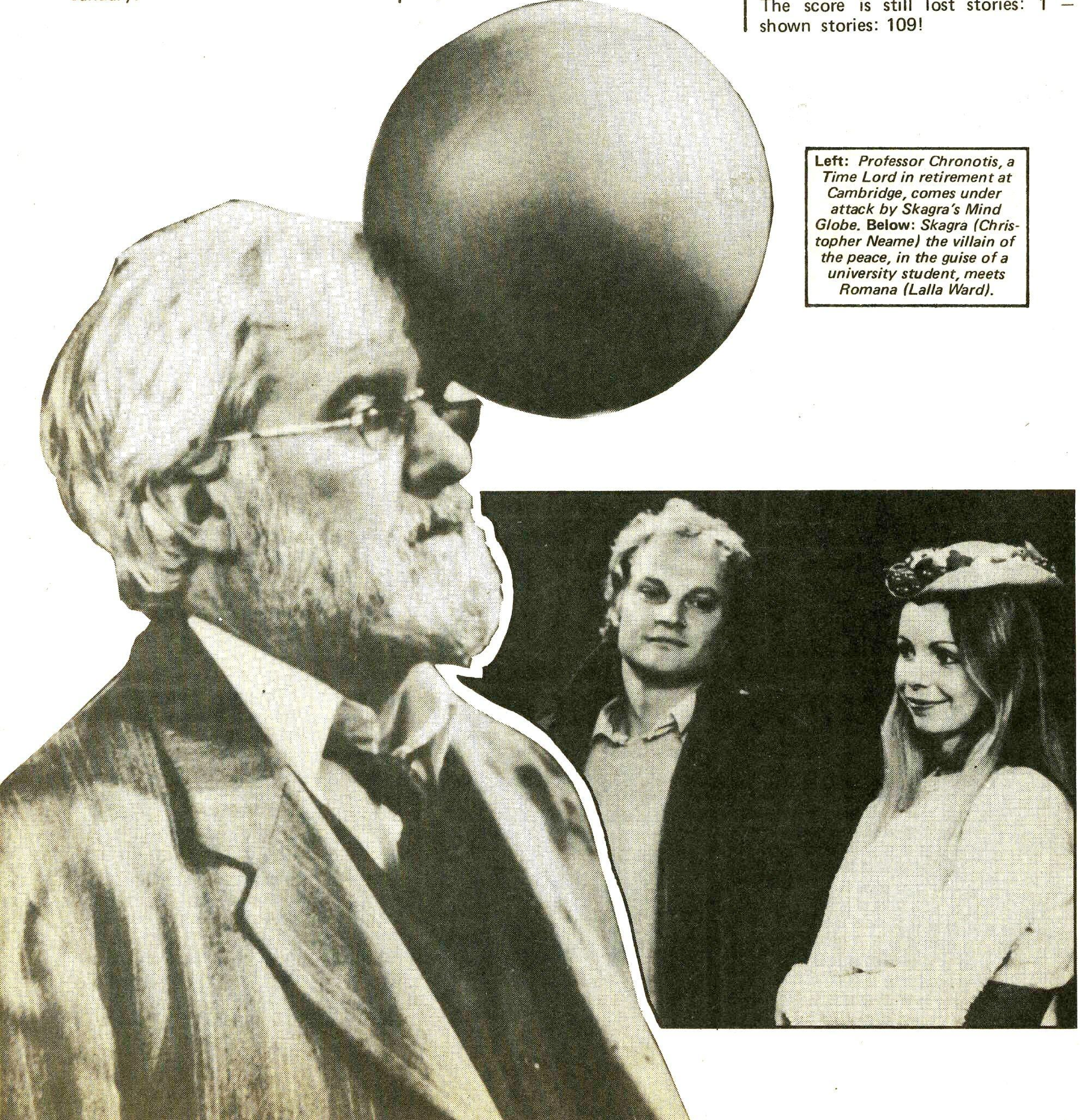
Down but not defeated. Incoming Producer John Nathan-Turner saw the potential of "Shada" as a first rate story that might well be adapted as a special programme for screening at Christmas. According to Director Pennant Roberts, Douglas Adams was approached with the idea of pruning the story down to 100 minutes of television time. However one further filming session would still be needed to link the already shot footage together.

John Nathan-Turner approached the television heads at the BBC with a request of a studio slot and for a while hopes looked high.

But with deadlines of paramount importance and with most Christmas programmes for 1980 already in hand, no slot could be found and the final cancellation instruction was given last June.

To date "Shada" has been the only serial to have come so far in production and then cancelled, a sombre reminder of the tremendous pressures and problems that have to be dealt with in the making of as complex a series as **Dr Who.**

A battle has been lost, but not the war! **Dr Who** is still alive and well and already the new season is proving a source of excitement to its eager fans. The score is still lost stories: 1 — shown stories: 109!



**Left:** *Professor Chronotis, a Time Lord in retirement at Cambridge, comes under attack by Skagra's Mind Globe.* **Below:** *Skagra (Christopher Neame) the villain of the peace, in the guise of a university student, meets Romana (Lalla Ward).*

# FANTASTIC FACTS

## THE GREAT 21 ESCAPES

A twenty-six year old man from Bridgeport, Connecticut, Francisco Rodriquez, escaped from police custody on February 21st, 1974 for the 21st time in two years. The State of Connecticut has spent an estimated 100,000 dollars trying to hold him, including 2,000 dollars for a special cell!

## LETHAL BARBECUE

Turkish villager, Demper Cevik, won a £6 bet by eating a whole barbecued lamb. Ten minutes later he dropped dead!

## THE RUTHLESS LEG OF THE LAW

A dog in Brooklyn bit a policeman in the leg and immediately dropped dead. The dogs of Brooklyn are not noted for their sensitive palates, so the death came as quite a shock. The policeman said, "It didn't bark or nothing. It just bit and died."

## COLLIDING CRIMINALS

On April 1974, two cars smashed into each other head-on in the village of Outwick, Hants. Both drivers ran off in different directions. Both cars had been stolen.

## THE GOOD OLD BEANS OF SYRACUSE

The theorem of Pythagoras is so famous that one could be excused for thinking that he was a mathematician. In fact he was a philosopher and the leader of a strange religious sect in the ancient Greek colony of Syracuse. They believed that numbers and shapes had hidden meanings which explains their interest in arithmetic and geometry. Another of their beliefs was reincarnation, that is, they thought that after death, souls were re-born in the form of an animal, a human or even as a bean. For this reason the Pythagoreans were vegetarians and did not eat beans, as they might accidentally eat one of their relatives.

## RAMPAGE THROUGH WILTSHIRE

Sam Cottle's hungry pigs went on the rampage, eating anything they could lay their snouts on . . . Their feast included a plane! They completely devoured the plane's fabric. "This is a very unusual case . . . pigs eating an aeroplane," remarked the prosecuting council at Devizes Crown Court, Wiltshire.

In the dock was Wilfred Grist, pigman on Cottle's farm. Grist was accused of deliberately opening the sty gate. The pigs then tore into 2½ tons of hay, a straw rick, half a ton of cattle food, and 30 asbestos sheets. They uprooted 3 acres of pastureland, damaged four farm gates and then had the plane for dessert.

## KILLER ANTS STRIKE

A column of killer ants a mile long and half a mile wide marched on the Brazilian town of Goiania and devoured several people — including the Chief of Police. 60 firemen with flamethrowers took 16 hours to drive the ants back into the jungle!

## PERFUMED SALAMI!

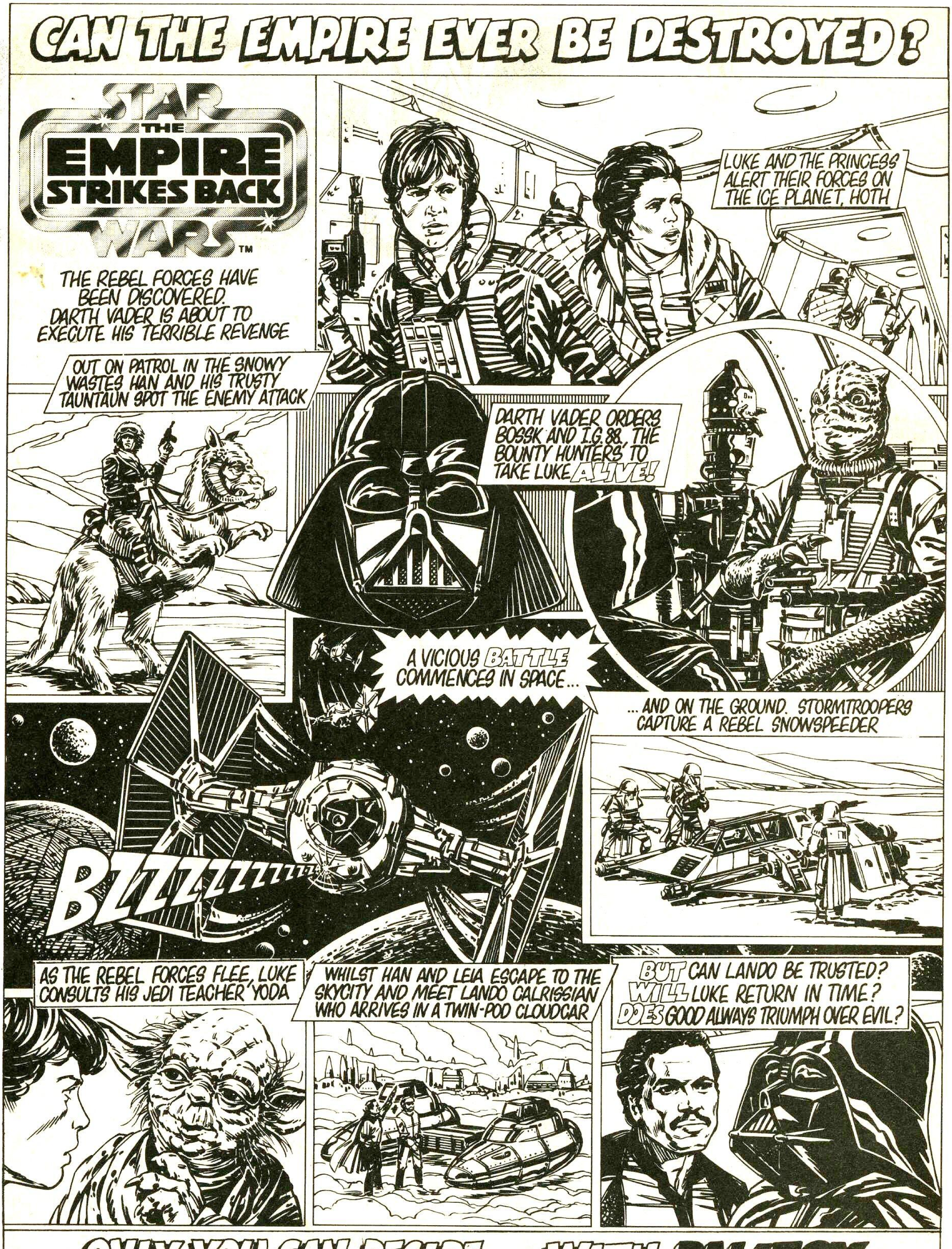
The "futurist" poet Marinetti, a fanatical fascist, created a new style of cooking to celebrate the new age which he believed had begun when Mussolini became dictator of Italy. One of his recipes was salami sausage served in hot black coffee, sprinkled with eau de cologne. Doesn't that sound good?

## FOWL PLAY

In November, 1973, Maryland Secretary of State, Fred Wineland, was aiming at his second goose when the first one he'd shot fell on him from 100ft up. He was knocked out, cracked four ribs and his dignity badly bruised.

## RUNAWAY ZEBRA

The San Francisco police chased a zebra down a six-lane freeway at 45mph. When stopped it kicked in two doors, smashed a mudguard, climbed on the bonnet, chewed up the steering wheel and bit two handlers before being returned to the Marine World Zoo!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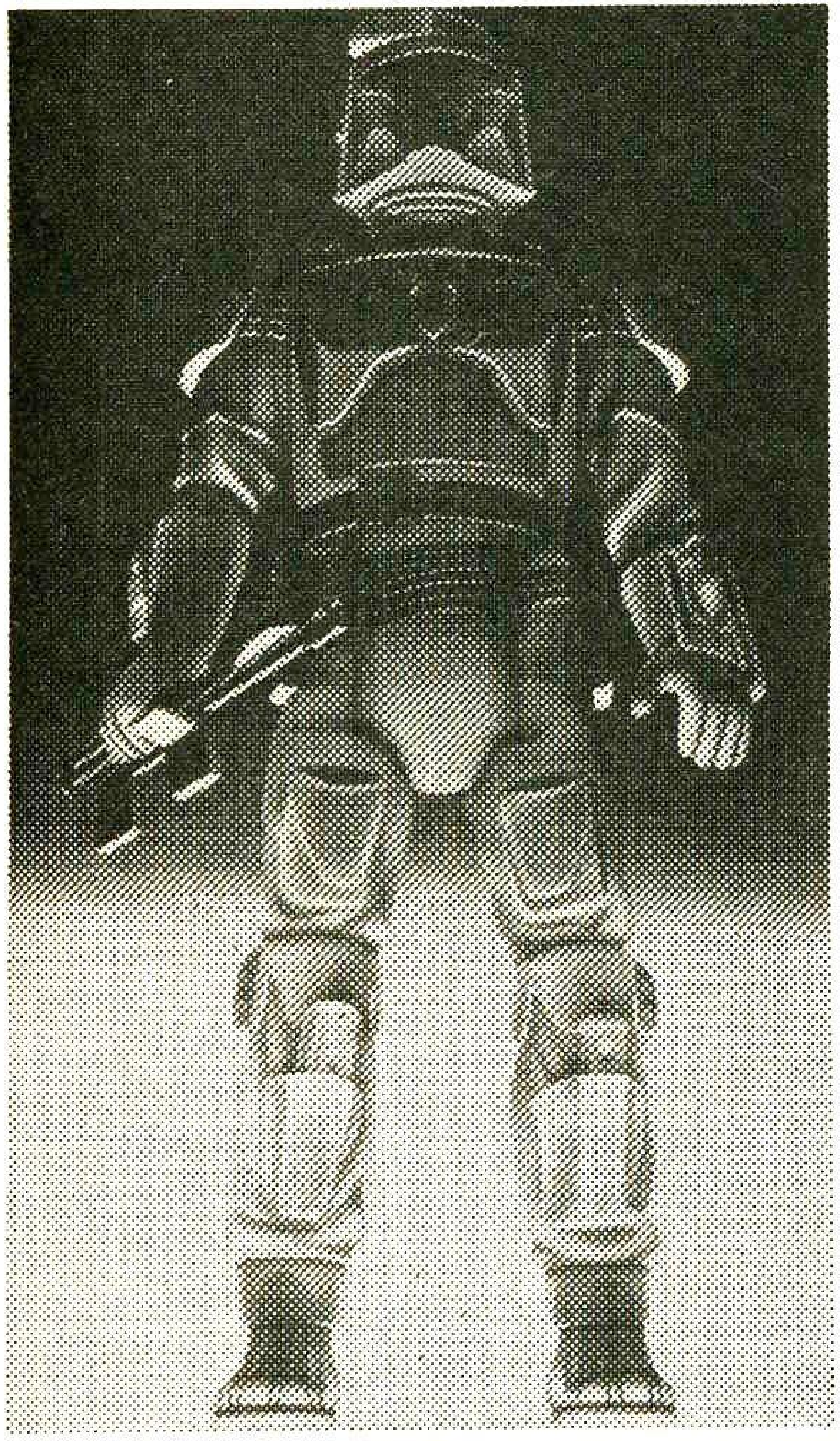

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# WHO CARES!

Send your letters and drawings (in black ink only, please) to: The Doctor, Who Cares, Marvel Comics Ltd., Jadwin House, 205-211 Kentish Town Road, London N.W.5.

Dear **Dr Who Monthly**,

Lately I think that your marvellous comic has improved very much, due to the fact, I think, that you have started to print the old **Dr Who** adventures *out* of order. I have collected all your comics and I'm glad to hear that you're finally going monthly. Keep up the good work!

**Murray Healy,**
**Crawley.**

*Glad to hear that you appreciate the new look we have given the magazine.*

---

Dear **Dr Who Monthly**,

I have just come back from my holiday and when I got home I ran up to the papershop as fast as I could and collected three **Dr Who Weeklies**, which had been especially reserved. I read them in order and when I saw that it was now a monthly I was very pleased. It is much, much, much, much *better*.

One story that I liked very much was "Black Legacy", it was brilliant! Please congratulate the artist and writer. "Business as Usual" was good as well.

**Andrew O'Doud,**
**Southampton.**

*Glad you like the new monthly magazine, Andrew. "Black Legacy" and "Business as Usual" were spine-chilling stories written by our new script-writer Alan Moore (no relation to Steve) and were just the thing to cheer you up at the end of a holiday!*

---

Dear **Dr Who Monthly**,

In the first monthly issue of your magazine, the story "Star Tigers" (which is excellent) startled me, for in one of the pictures showing the streets of Paradise, a planet whose only purpose is to give pleasure, I was amazed to see a Cyberman in the background. Everyone knows that they are supposed to be completely without emotion and would therefore have no need to go to a planet such as Paradise.

The only explanation I could think of is that in the story "Ship of Fools", the planet that Kroton (the Cyberman with emotions) saw from the luxury liner was Paradise!

**Kenny Ashes,**
**Liverpool.**

*You're probably right, Kenny, so there's no need to worry about Kroton anymore. You have just given indisputable proof that he's on the planet Paradise having the time of his emotional life!*

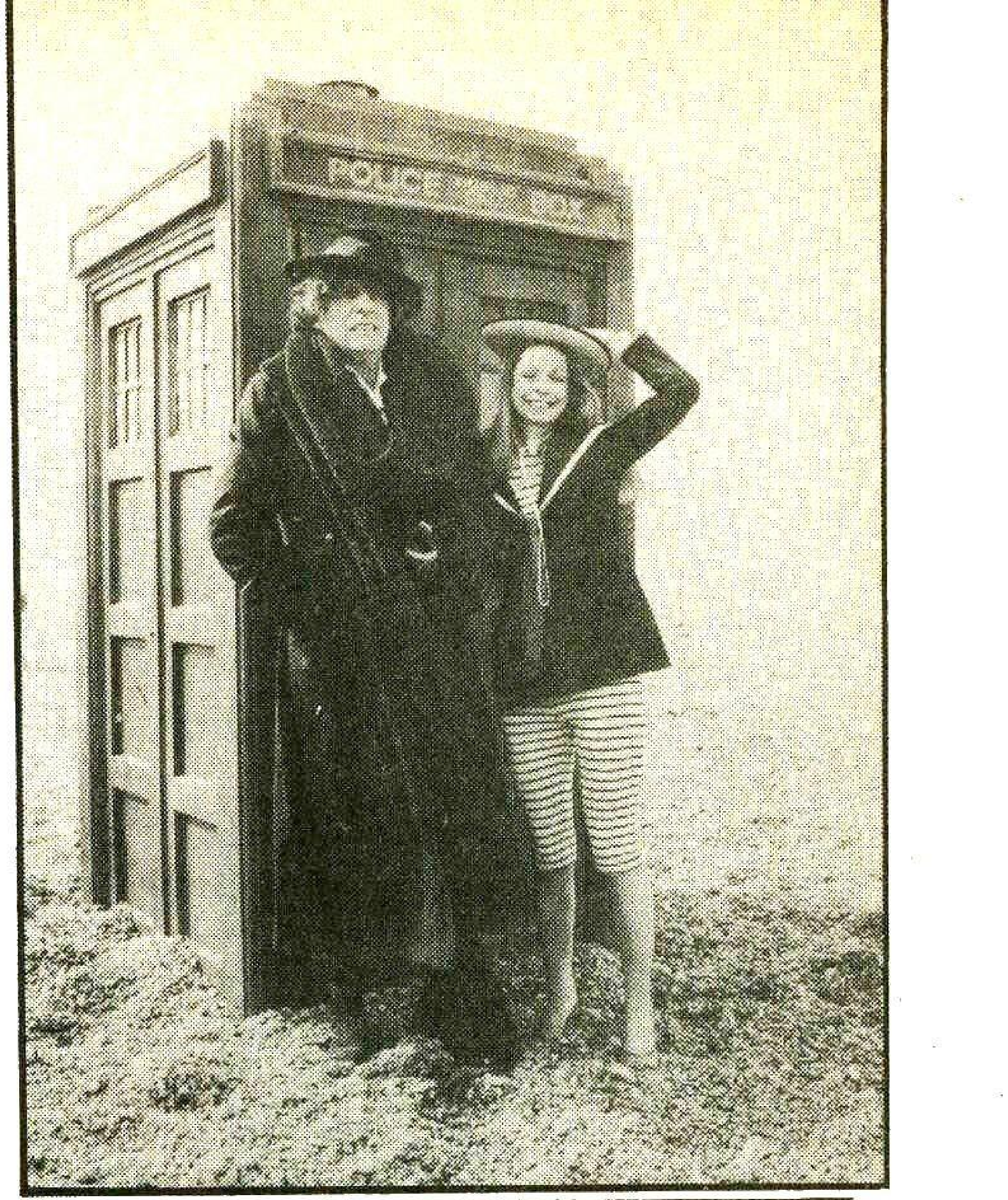
Dear **Dr Who Monthly**,

I have been reading Marvel Comics for about a year and can safely say that **Dr Who Monthly** is the best, though in my opinion it could be a lot bigger.

I am very glad that "City of Death" was repeated on the television as I had not seen the first two episodes.

**Paul Deacon,**
**Bradford.**

*Thank-you for your comments, Paul. We agree that such a great comic should have more pages, so keep watching . . . we have a surprise in store for you in issue 47!*



The Doctor, Romana and K-9 land in the early 19th century, hoping to catch the opening of the Brighton Pavilion. They missed the celebrations, but Romana and K-9 still enjoy their brief stay at the seaside!

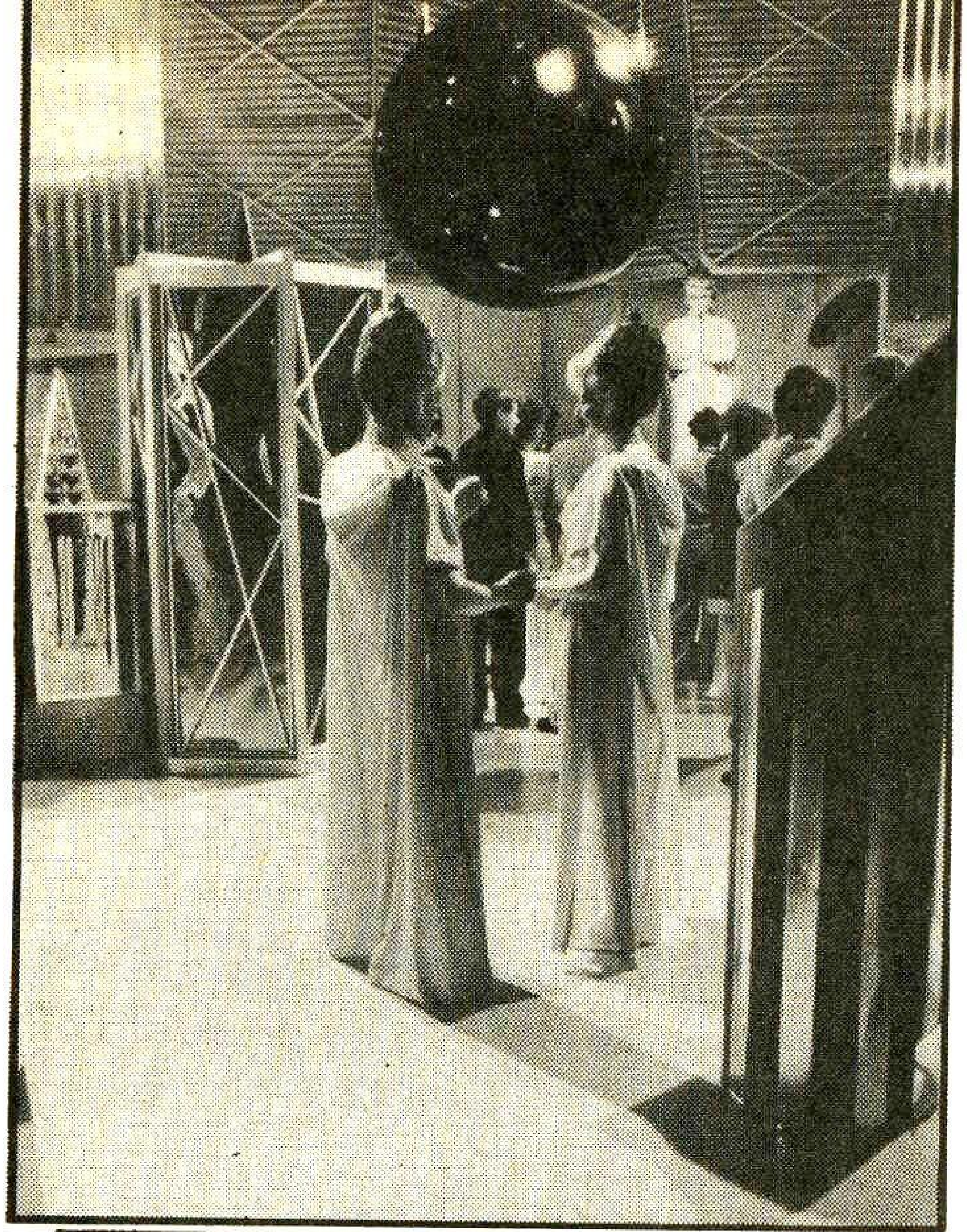
## From Bright

# THE LEISU

Argolis, planet of the Leisure Hive, whose opulent interiors mask the horror of the radioactive wasteland outside.

Centuries ago Argolis was laid barren by a war that lasted no longer than a single day. It was a war they brought upon themselves and since that grim day the remaining population has maintained its one legacy to the rest of the galaxy: the Hive. To the uninformed visitor, the Hive would appear to be little more than a glorified holiday camp. A recreational area among the many technological wonders of the Argolin race. The decor is pleasantly tasteful with helpful guides constantly patrolling the several towers that make up the complex.

Appearances, though, can be deceptive. The Hive exists for a much subtler purpose. By indul-



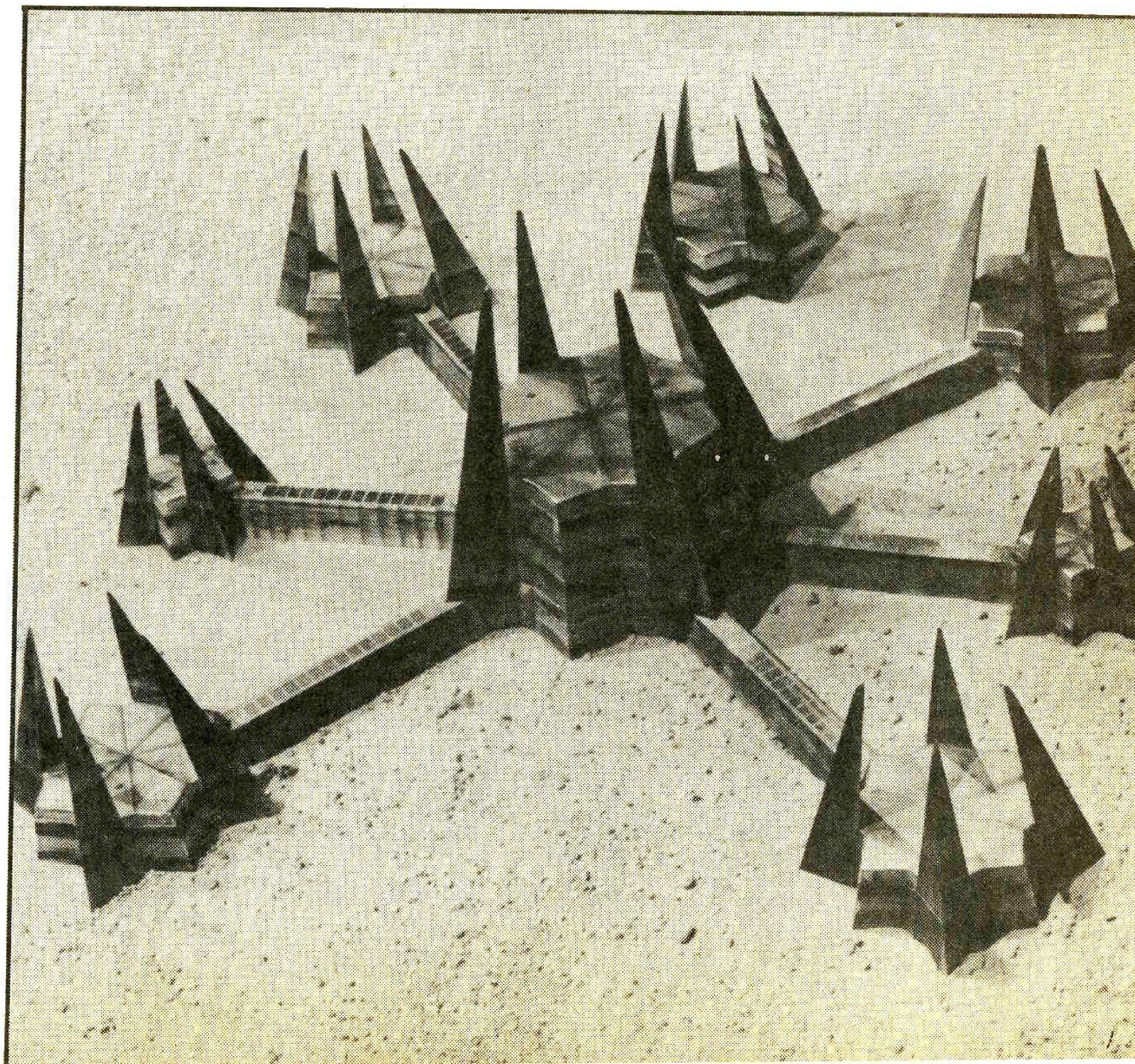
**Above:** *The Tachyon Generator — pinnacle of Argolin technology.* **Right:** *Pangol, son of the present ruler of Argolis.* **Bottom right:** *The Hive itself, standing alone amid the radioactive wasteland of Argolis.*

## n to Argolis...

# URE HIVE

ging in its many relaxational facilities a visitor is taught to appreciate what it is like to be "the foreigner" — to see himself as others would see him, so that he may emerge from the Hive with greater tolerance and understanding for alien species. In this way the Argolins hope to erase prejudice which is, so often, the cause for needless death and destruction.

The Hive is also the home of the experimental Tachyon Generator. A tachyon is a subatomic particle that travels faster than light therefore, theoretically, it can arrive at its destination before it left its origin. Its potentials in the realms of Time and Space are enormous and naturally any experiments in the fourth and fifth dimensions are bound to attract the attentions of the Doctor and his companion Romana . . .



# GALLIFREY GUARDIAN

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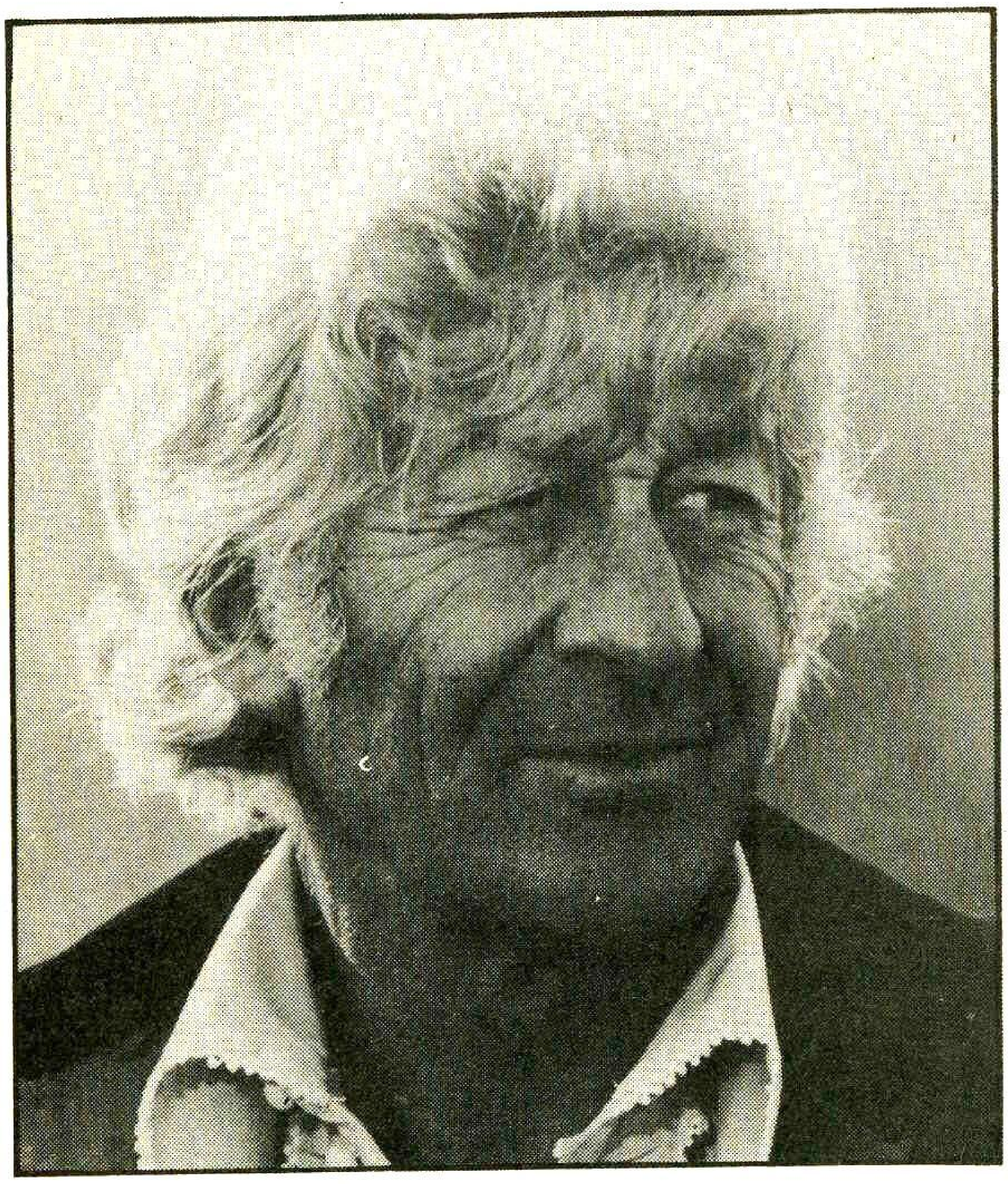
## Regeneration gives Doctor a new nose



A sly in-joke perpetrated by *Dr Who* writer Terrance Dicks was revealed recently by Canadian reader Lora Mackie concerning an apparently throw-away line in Tom Baker's debut story "Robot". During the previous five years, Jon Pertwee, the Doctor's third incarnation had kept a wary eye on the angles he was filmed at by cameramen in the studio. If ever a luckless operator shot from too low a perspective Jon would complain that his nose was appearing "like a blasted double-barrelled shotgun".

When Terrance Dicks, who had been script-editor during the entire Pertwee era, came to write the opening Tom Baker story, he wrote a scene where the Doctor, examining his new face in a mirror, observed the reflection and with pride pointed out, "I think the nose is a definite improvement!"

This though is still debatable. During a much earlier interview at Westfield College in 1976, Terrance pointedly observed how alike Tom Baker and Jon Pertwee were in certain physical respects. Aside from the prominent nose, both are of similar height, build and have mops of curly hair. Asked if this was deliberate planning by the Producer to smooth the regeneration, Terrance confessed it was not. It had been purely another case of "serendipity" – a happy accident.

## Music accompaniment in Dr. Who

Music, as John Williams of *Star Wars* and *Superman* fame has proved, provides the mood and atmosphere to any given production. It enhances whatever image the director is trying to put over to the audience, and in places it can replace the need for dialogue.

Certainly incidental music has played a large part in *Dr Who* ever since Norman Kay's eerie tinkling score introduced us to the TARDIS in its 1963 junkyard location.

Since then much of the music for *Dr Who* has been in the hands of Australian composer Dudley Simpson who has provided the series with some of its most memorable tunes, including the UNIT theme for "The Ambassadors of Death", the six note theme for Roger Delgado's Master and, latterly, the catchy music that accompanied the scenes in Paris for "The City of Death" – recently repeated.

For this season much of the composing for the stories is in the capable hands of Peter Howell of the BBC Radiophonic Workshop. Peter already has many accolades to his name among which the pulse-pounding "Case for Ancient Astronauts" and the haunting "Greenwhich Chorus" pieces stand out. Several albums of radiophonic music on the BBC Records label bear tracks by him, and on most of them he plays all the instruments – his favourite being the synthesiser.

## The Doctor to reside at Madame Tussauds

Since August 29th, K-9 and the Doctor have taken their places amongst the other great personalities that reside at Madame Tussauds.

The waxwork museum has had dealings with *Dr Who* in the past. In the first Auton story, "Spearhead from Space", it was used as a location to film the scenes where several waxworks, in fact, plastic Autons, came to life!

## Mysterious disappearance of photo-file

Ian Robinson queried the disappearance of the Photo-file from the pages of the Weekly.

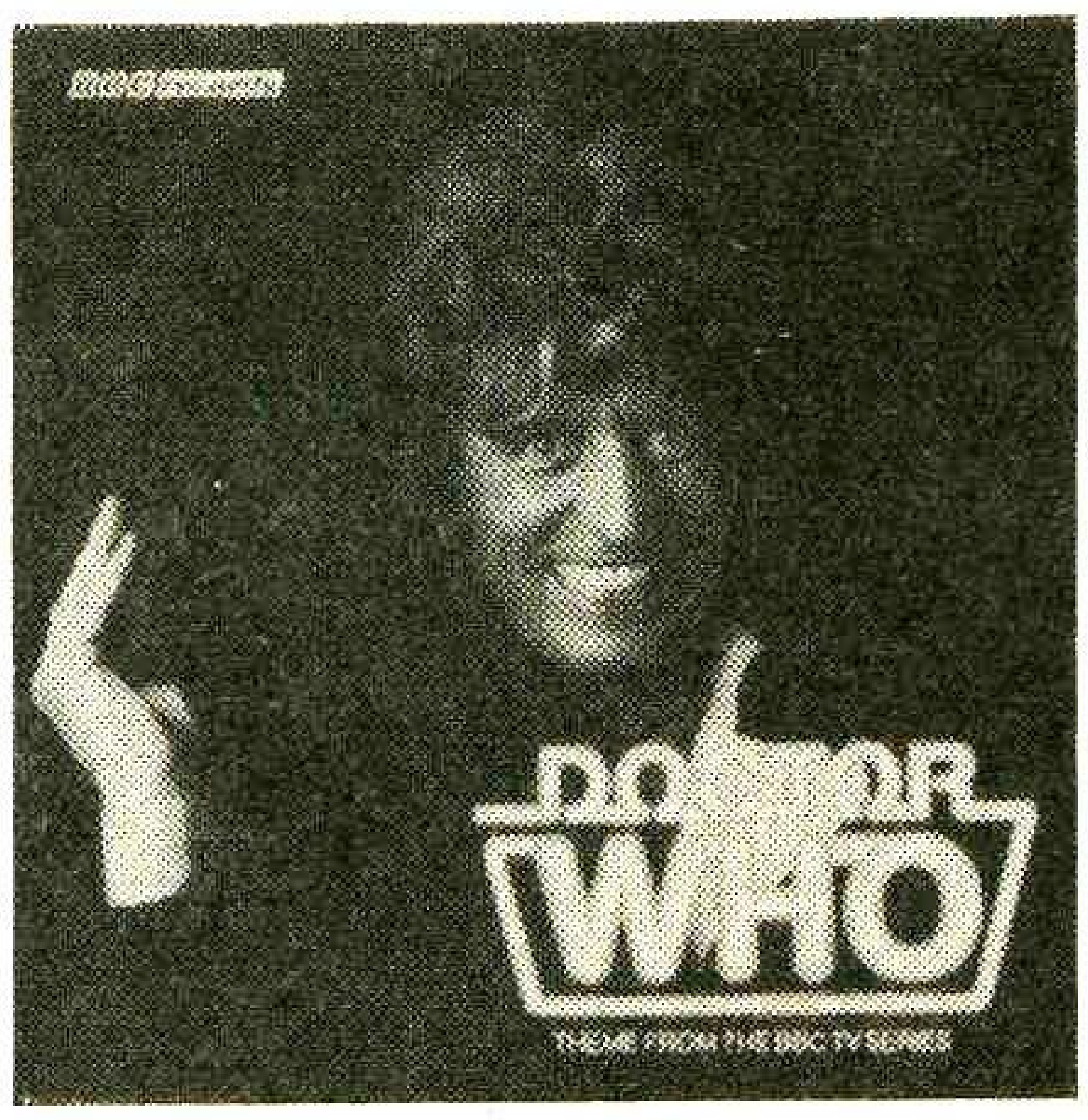
In fact the feature had almost come to a natural close as virtually all the regular actors and actresses from *Dr Who* had been covered.

## Quote of the month

Doctor: You know, you're a classic example of the inverse ratio between the size of the mouth and the size of a brain.

## Record Competition

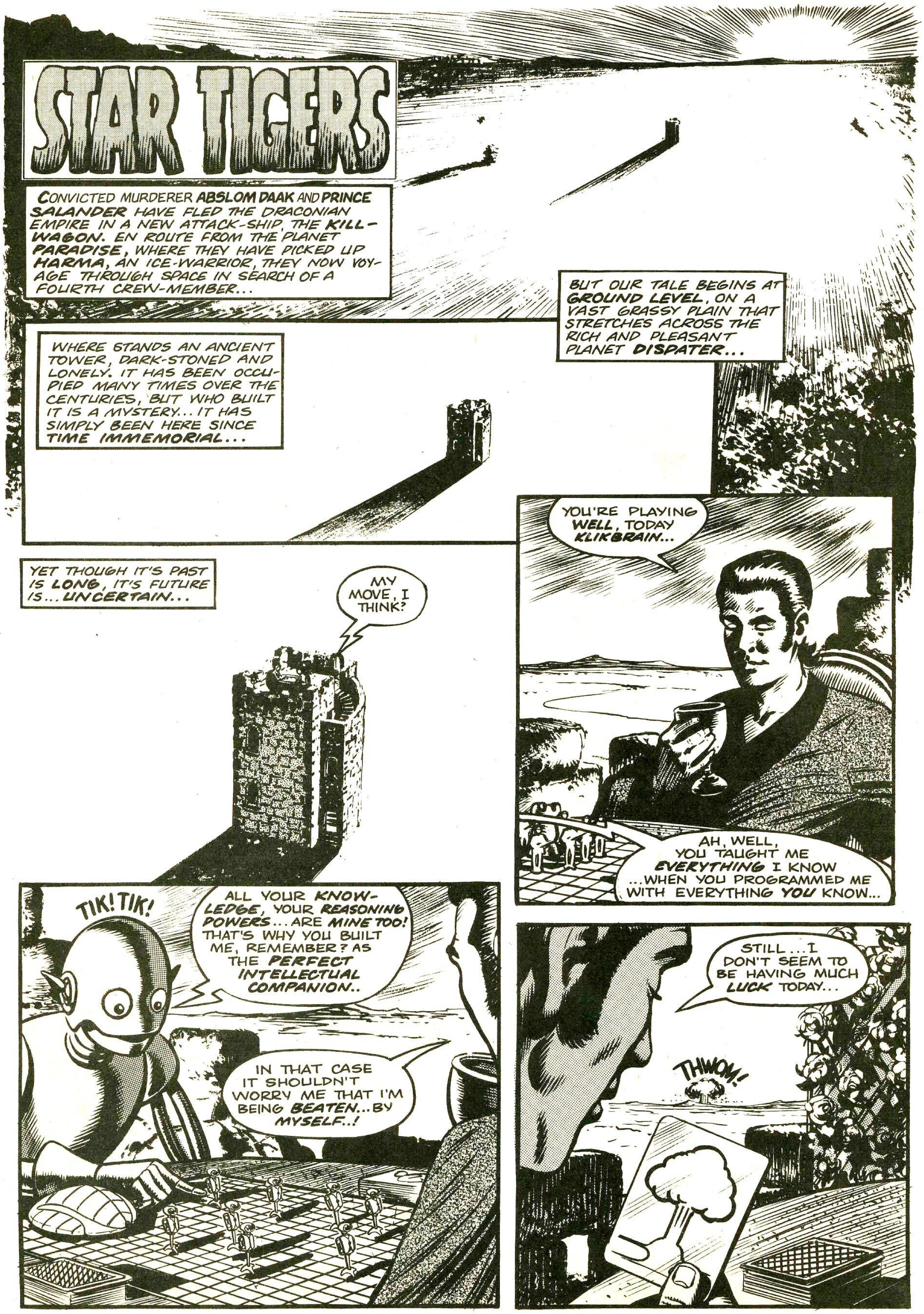
Watch out next month for an exciting opportunity to win a fabulous single record of *Dr Who's* new theme music, arranged by Peter Howell of the BBC Radiophonic Workshop.

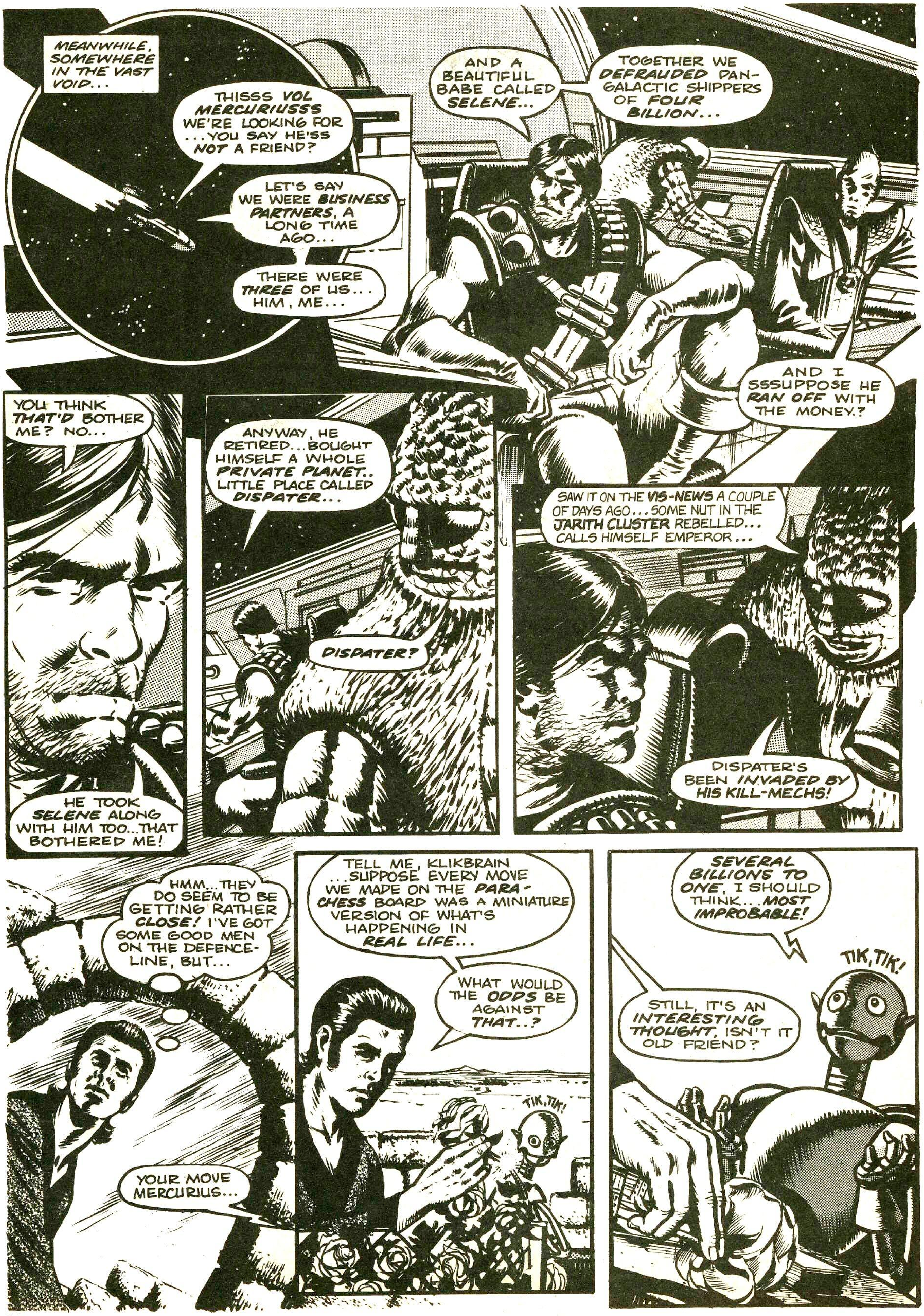


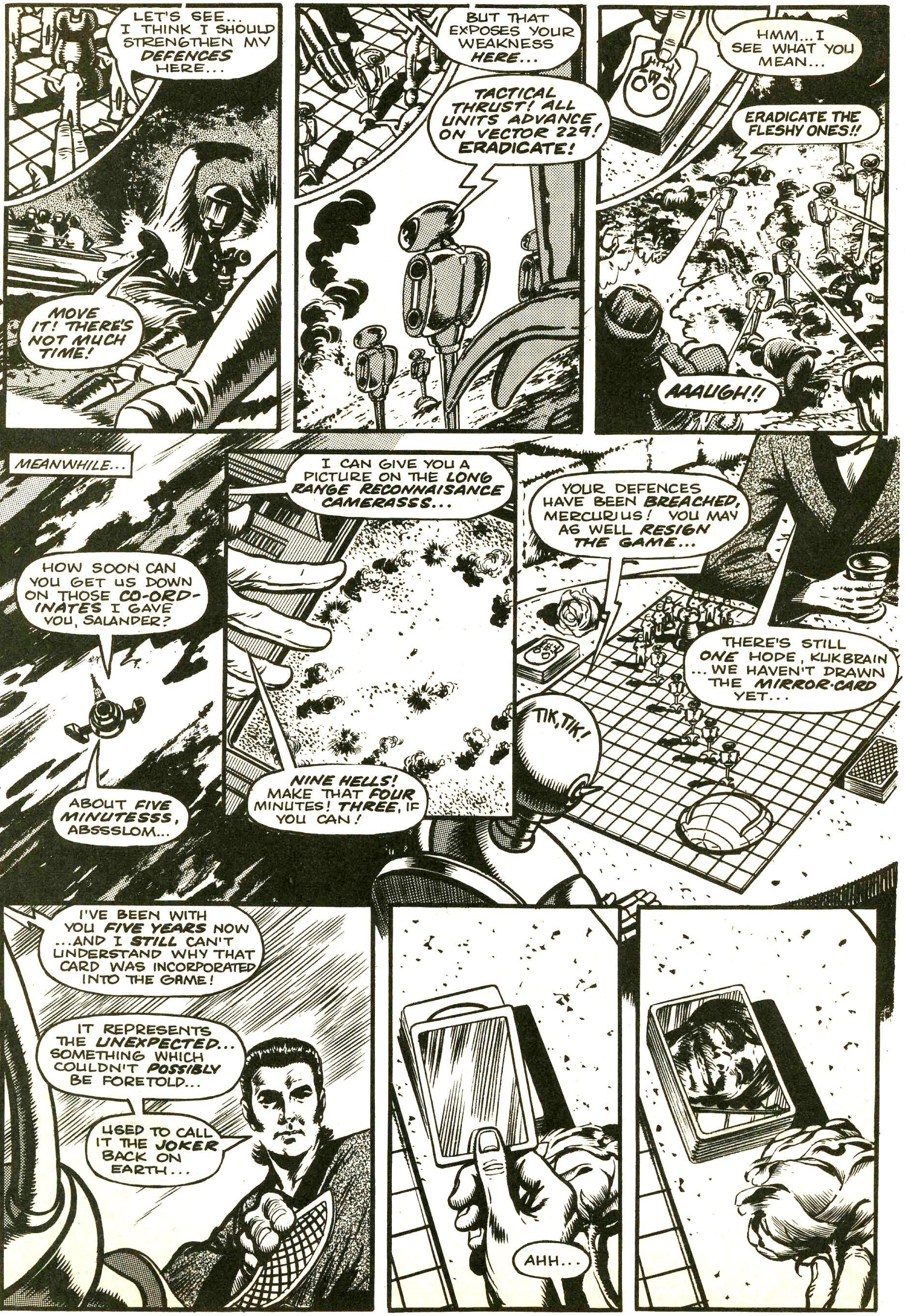
## Weather

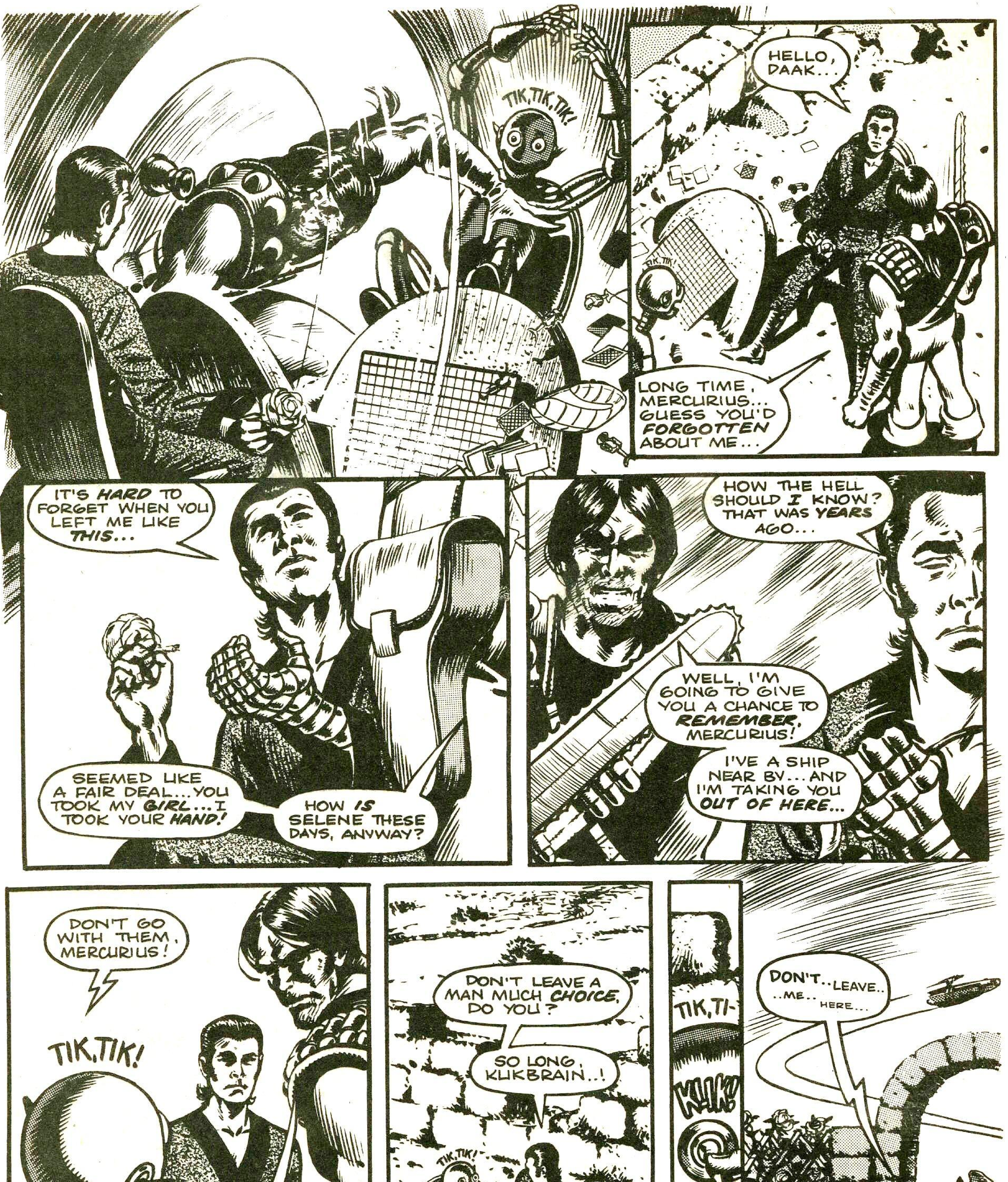
A low trough to the outermost tip of the Crab Nebula will move slowly towards Alpha Centauri bringing meteor storms to all areas. The weather will continue unsettled with the chance of solar wind force 24, in exposed places.

# STAR TIGERS


CONVICTED MURDERER ABSLOM DAAK AND PRINCE SALANDER HAVE FLED THE DRACONIAN EMPIRE IN A NEW ATTACK-SHIP, THE KILL-WAGON. EN ROUTE FROM THE PLANET PARADISE, WHERE THEY HAVE PICKED UP HARMA, AN ICE-WARRIOR, THEY NOW VOYAGE THROUGH SPACE IN SEARCH OF A FOURTH CREW-MEMBER...
BUT OUR TALE BEGINS AT GROUND LEVEL, ON A VAST GRASSY PLAIN THAT STRETCHES ACROSS THE RICH AND PLEASANT PLANET DISPATER...
WHERE STANDS AN ANCIENT TOWER, DARK-STONED AND LONELY. IT HAS BEEN OCCUPIED MANY TIMES OVER THE CENTURIES, BUT WHO BUILT IT IS A MYSTERY... IT HAS SIMPLY BEEN HERE SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL...
YET THOUGH IT'S PAST IS LONG, IT'S FUTURE IS... UNCERTAIN...
MY MOVE, I THINK?
YOU'RE PLAYING WELL, TODAY KLIKBRAIN...
AH, WELL, YOU TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW ...WHEN YOU PROGRAMMED ME WITH EVERYTHING YOU KNOW...
TIK! TIK!
ALL YOUR KNOWLEDGE, YOUR REASONING POWERS... ARE MINE TOO! THAT'S WHY YOU BUILT ME, REMEMBER? AS THE PERFECT INTELLECTUAL COMPANION..
IN THAT CASE IT SHOULDN'T WORRY ME THAT I'M BEING BEATEN... BY MYSELF..!
STILL... I DON'T SEEM TO BE HAVING MUCH LUCK TODAY...
THWOM!


MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN THE VAST VOID...
THISSS VOL MERCURIUSSS WE'RE LOOKING FOR ...YOU SAY HE'SS NOT A FRIEND?
LET'S SAY WE WERE BUSINESS PARTNERS, A LONG TIME AGO...
THERE WERE THREE OF US... HIM, ME...
AND A BEAUTIFUL BABE CALLED SELENE...
TOGETHER WE DEFRAUDED PAN-GALACTIC SHIPPERS OF FOUR BILLION...
AND I SSSUPPOSE HE RAN OFF WITH THE MONEY.?
YOU THINK THAT'D BOTHER ME? NO...
HE TOOK SELENE ALONG WITH HIM TOO...THAT BOTHERED ME!
ANYWAY, HE RETIRED...BOUGHT HIMSELF A WHOLE PRIVATE PLANET.. LITTLE PLACE CALLED DISPATER...
DISPATER?
SAW IT ON THE VIS-NEWS A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO...SOME NUT IN THE JARITH CLUSTER REBELLED... CALLS HIMSELF EMPEROR...
DISPATER'S BEEN INVADED BY HIS KILL-MECHS!
HMM...THEY DO SEEM TO BE GETTING RATHER CLOSE! I'VE GOT SOME GOOD MEN ON THE DEFENCE-LINE, BUT...
YOUR MOVE MERCURIUS...
TELL ME, KLIKBRAIN ...SUPPOSE EVERY MOVE WE MADE ON THE PARA-CHESS BOARD WAS A MINIATURE VERSION OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN REAL LIFE...
WHAT WOULD THE ODDS BE AGAINST THAT..?
TIK,TIK!
SEVERAL BILLIONS TO ONE, I SHOULD THINK...MOST IMPROBABLE!
TIK,TIK!
STILL, IT'S AN INTERESTING THOUGHT, ISN'T IT OLD FRIEND?


LET'S SEE... I THINK I SHOULD STRENGTHEN MY *DEFENCES* HERE...
MOVE IT! THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME!
BUT THAT EXPOSES YOUR WEAKNESS *HERE*...
TACTICAL THRUST! ALL UNITS ADVANCE ON VECTOR 229! ERADICATE!
HMM... I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN...
ERADICATE THE FLESHY ONES!!
AAAUGH!!
MEANWHILE...
HOW SOON CAN YOU GET US DOWN ON THOSE *CO-ORDINATES* I GAVE YOU, SALANDER?
ABOUT *FIVE MINUTESSS*, ABSSSLOM...
I CAN GIVE YOU A PICTURE ON THE *LONG RANGE RECONNAISANCE CAMERASSS*...
*NINE HELLS!* MAKE THAT *FOUR* MINUTES! *THREE*, IF YOU CAN!
YOUR DEFENCES HAVE BEEN *BREACHED*, MERCURIUS! YOU MAY AS WELL *RESIGN THE GAME*...
THERE'S STILL *ONE* HOPE, KLIKBRAIN ...WE HAVEN'T DRAWN THE *MIRROR-CARD* YET...
TIK, TIK!
I'VE BEEN WITH YOU *FIVE YEARS* NOW ...AND I *STILL* CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THAT CARD WAS INCORPORATED INTO THE GAME!
IT REPRESENTS THE *UNEXPECTED*... SOMETHING WHICH COULDN'T *POSSIBLY* BE FORETOLD...
USED TO CALL IT THE *JOKER* BACK ON EARTH...
AHH...


TIK,TIK,TIK!
HELLO, DAAK...
TIK,TIK!
LONG TIME, MERCURIUS... GUESS YOU'D *FORGOTTEN* ABOUT ME...
IT'S *HARD* TO FORGET WHEN YOU LEFT ME LIKE *THIS*...
SEEMED LIKE A FAIR DEAL... YOU TOOK MY *GIRL*... I TOOK YOUR *HAND!*
HOW *IS* SELENE THESE DAYS, ANYWAY?
HOW THE HELL SHOULD *I* KNOW? THAT WAS *YEARS* AGO...
WELL, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO *REMEMBER*, MERCURIUS!
I'VE A SHIP NEAR BY... AND I'M TAKING YOU *OUT OF HERE*...
DON'T GO WITH THEM, MERCURIUS!
TIK,TIK!
*SHUT UP*, TINHEAD! I'M NOT LEAVING YOU HERE FOR THE *KILL-MECHS*... ...SO EITHER YOU COME WITH US...
OR I KILL YOU NOW *MYSELF*...
DON'T LEAVE A MAN MUCH *CHOICE*, DO YOU?
SO LONG, KLIKBRAIN..!
TIK,TIK!
TIK,TI-
KLIK!
DON'T.. LEAVE.. ..ME.. HERE...
...MORE NEXT MONTH

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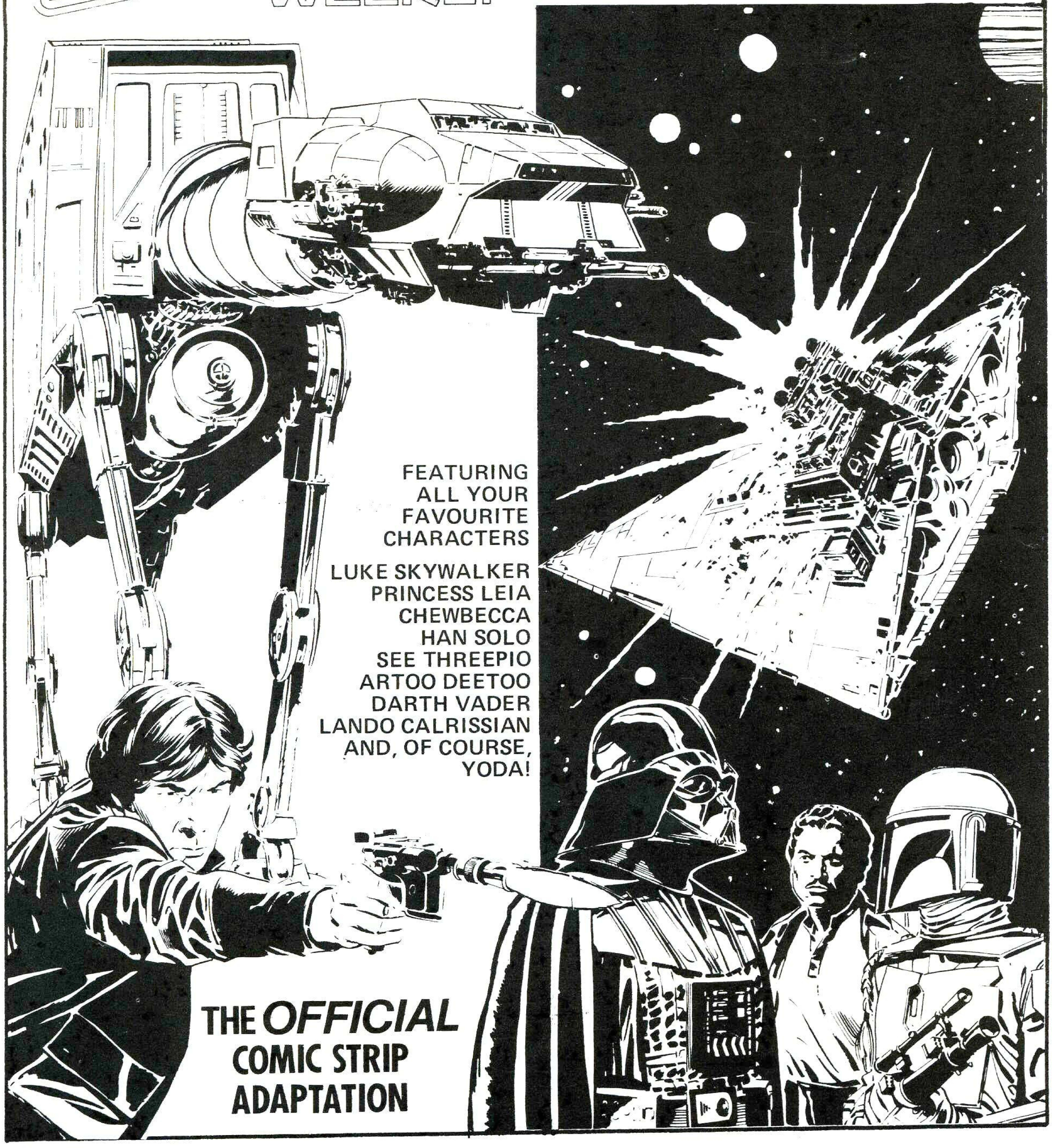

FEATURING
ALL YOUR
FAVOURITE
CHARACTERS

LUKE SKYWALKER
PRINCESS LEIA
CHEWBECCA
HAN SOLO
SEE THREEPIO
ARTOO DEETOO
DARTH VADER
LANDO CALRISSIAN
AND, OF COURSE,
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